

These trade  
plus at  
5bn peak  
growing



## POLICE STABBING

Why women must  
stay on the beat

Page 3; leading article, page 13



## EUROPE

1,000 beacons lit  
for single market

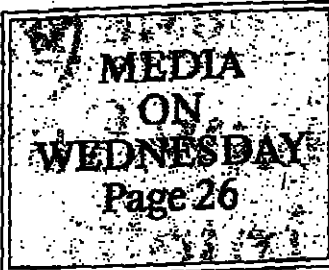
Map for Britain, page 6



## BEAUTY

How to look a little  
lovelier in 1993

Looks, page 10



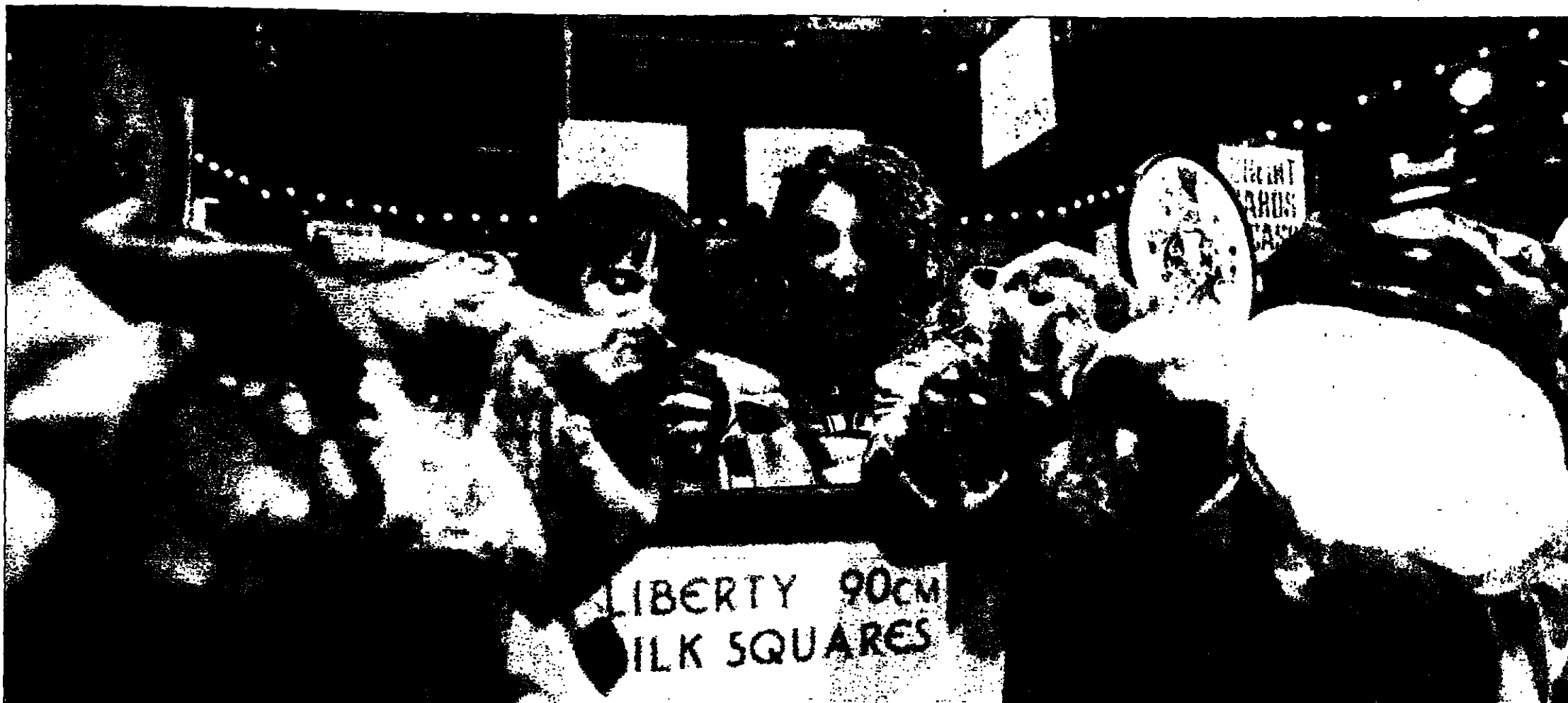
MEDIA  
ON  
WEDNESDAY  
Page 26

# THE TIMES

No. 64,528

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30 1992

45p



Sales fever: shoppers plunder a bargain bin at the Liberty store near Oxford Street in London yesterday, as the high street spending boom continued for a second day across Britain. (Photograph: Tony White)

## There's no stopping the mad rush for shopping

By LOUISE HIDALGO

THE most hectic start to the winter sales for years showed little sign of abating yesterday. Retailers reported that by mid-day shoppers were arriving in their thousands.

The House of Fraser, whose 62 stores enjoyed a "phenomenal" day on Monday, with sales 37 per cent up on the same day last year, said it was "on target to be another very, very busy day".

Manchester again saw queues waiting for stores to open — about 500 people were outside Marks and Spencer alone. The manager of the

## Shares record

Store shares led the way in an end of the year bull run, as the stock market surged 20 points to a new record closing high of 2847.8. The rise was helped by reports of booming high street sales. Record finish, page 17 Stock market, page 20

# Bush-Yeltsin summit to clinch nuclear cuts

FROM JAMIE DEITMER  
IN WASHINGTON

THE United States and Russia agreed yesterday on the text of an accord which will slash their nuclear arsenals by two-thirds, clearing the way for President Bush and President Yeltsin to meet at a treaty-signing summit next week.

Lawrence Eagleburger, the US Secretary of State, who worked out the treaty's final details with Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, announced the breakthrough after a 90-minute meeting in Geneva.

He would not release the treaty text, but his officials said it would result in the nuclear arsenals of both countries losing their deadliest intercontinental missiles — land-based ones armed with multiple warheads. The pact is almost certain to lead to both nuclear arsenals being cut by nearly two-thirds.

"We have made very good progress," Mr Eagleburger told the press. "We have now a text that we can put to the two presidents. The final decision will be theirs, and I would hope we have news for you within the next few days." A jubilant Mr Kozyrev agreed that Mr Eagleburger's state-

- Long-range land-based missiles with multiple warheads cut
- Strategic warhead stockpiles cut by two thirds (3,500 US and 3,000 Russian by year 2003)
- SS18 missiles eliminated but their 154 silos retained for SS25 missiles
- 170 SS19 'six warhead' missiles preserved if converted to single warhead missiles
- B1 and B52 bombers converted for conventional use US wants to retain possible nuclear use

ment was an "accurate description". He joked that Mr Eagleburger had lost a bottle of whisky which he wagered on the outcome of the talks.

Mr Kozyrev also said: "These talks, and our regular contacts over the last few days, are symptomatic of the relationship between our two countries. We've had our differences, but we've learnt how to overcome them."

American and Russian officials said Mr Bush and Mr Yeltsin would almost certainly meet at a summit early next

week to sign the Start 2 treaty, the US president's third nuclear pact with Moscow. They dismissed Russian news agency reports that the summit would take place in Paris and continued to suggest that it would be at the Black Sea resort of Sochi.

The signing of the treaty will mark the high point in Mr Bush's efforts to secure arms control agreements. He signed last year Start 1, a pact that aimed to cut the US and Soviet arsenals by 30 per cent — from the current 10,000

strategic warheads each, to 8,600 for America and 6,500 for the former Soviet states of Russia, Belorussia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan. Start 2 will see the numbers further reduced by the year 2003, with America keeping 3,500 warheads and Russia maintaining 3,000 strategic warheads.

The Start 2 breakthrough came on the second day of meetings between the two foreign ministers. Mr Bush and Mr Yeltsin kept in close touch with the negotiations and talked by telephone before the foreign ministers arrived in Geneva on Sunday night. Mr Bush told Mr Yeltsin that his administration would be flexible over several objections raised recently by Russia's generals.

When the foreign ministers arrived in Switzerland, there were still three main areas of contention. The Bush administration wanted all silos housing Russia's 154 heavy SS18 missiles destroyed as well as the missiles themselves. The Russian military object-

ed to the destruction of the silos, arguing that it would be expensive and that they could use them to house other weapons. The generals also wanted an agreement whereby the mobile SS19 missiles, armed with six warheads, could be saved by converting them into single-warhead weapons. The Americans were anxious to save their B1 and B52 bombers by converting them for conventional use.

The Americans would appear to have compromised the most. Despite Pentagon fears that the old SS18 silos could be used to store Russia's mobile SS25 missiles, thereby making them less vulnerable to US attack, Mr Eagleburger is understood to have agreed to some of the silos being preserved. How many was unclear last night. The secretary of state would also have appeared to have agreed to some of the 170 SS19s being converted to single-warhead use.

Yeltsin profits, page 8

## Blow to West's hopes as Panic is thrown out

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND DESSA TREVISAN

MILAN Panic, the Yugoslav prime minister, was removed from power yesterday after he lost a confidence vote in both houses of parliament in Belgrade. His departure is a blow to Western hopes of a more moderate Serb line.

Mr Panic was replaced by Radolje Kordic, his deputy and a Montenegrin, in a move engineered by the ultra-nationalist Radical Party. As well as being a blow to the West, Mr Panic's departure leaves Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, free to pursue his nationalist goals of carving out a Greater Serbia.

Bosnian government forces are massing on a mountain-side southwest of Sarajevo. They are expected to launch an offensive in the coming days to try to break the Serbs' siege of Sarajevo, United Nations officials in the city said.

The UN believes there are approximately 10,000 soldiers loyal to the Bosnian government on Igman mountain, just three miles from Sarajevo airport. Six thousand of them are believed to be well-equipped combat troops and 4,000 are thought to be performing support roles. Snow-capped Igman is one of the coldest places in the region and a large number of the soldiers stationed on the mountain are said to have frost-bite.

If the offensive starts before tomorrow, the UN will almost certainly be forced to cancel the scheduled visit of Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general. An offensive from Igman mountain would shut the airport and effectively close the only road into the city. If the fighting erupted during the secretary-general's visit, he would probably be stranded in the city.

For the past several weeks Sarajevo has been relatively quiet but since late on Monday night there has been

increased shelling and small arms fire. Though tensions are high, the level of fighting is far below what people are expecting in the next few days. The build-up on Igman mountain over the past two months appears to be the largest massing of Bosnian government forces since the war began.

Nationalist victory, page 7  
Whitehall as war, page 12  
Leading article  
and Letters page 13

Arndale complex was confident that it would outstrip its record of 1.8 million visitors over the post-Christmas week.

"There are a lot of steady-eyed shoppers out there and they are out to buy, not to look around," said Brian Lucas, manager of the Lakeside shopping centre at Thurrock, Essex. About 100,000 people visited the centre, the largest around London, on Monday. Selfridges, one of London's flagship stores, was again buzzing. "I have never seen the shop so busy in the 12 years I have been here," said Tim Daniels, managing director, and also chairman of the Oxford Street Association. "The whole street is packed."

Leading article, page 13

## WPC vows to return to work

By NICHOLAS WATT

THE policewoman who has been seriously ill since being stabbed three times at the weekend regained consciousness yesterday and immediately vowed to return to work. Unable to speak to her boy friend, Barry Pitt, who had kept a vigil by her bed through the night, WPC Lesley Harrison, 29, scribbled a note that said: "I'm going back."

Mr Pitt said she wrote the message as soon as she came off the ventilator. "It was obviously a struggle to write the notes. She's a very single-minded girl and I know she is focusing her mind on a speedy recovery." He said that later, when she was able to speak, she held his hand and said: "Don't worry, I'll be all right. I love you, and I love being a policewoman."

A 28-year-old man who was arrested in connection with the attack on Sunday night has been released from hospital. Police were questioning him last night.

No retreat, page 3  
Leading article, page 13

## House hunters on the march

By IAN MURRAY

ESTATE agents are predicting a significant recovery in the housing market next year after an unexpected pre-Christmas boom made December the busiest month the depressed trade has known for at least three years.

The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors has also produced a report showing that the housing market should stabilise next year, but it has called for a further interest rate cut of 1 per cent to provide a "crucial psychological boost" to encourage people to buy.

Michael Jones, president of the National Association of

Estate Agents, the largest professional body, said: "We find the same positive reaction from agents all round the country. It is not just hype on our part. There is genuine interest all round."

He believed that the market was picking up because people were beginning to understand that the low interest rates mean they can afford to move. "We have seen false dawns before but the fact that sales are picking up in December is a good indicator that things are changing. People are more confident and more decisive this time," he said.

Figures issued yesterday by the Inland Revenue showed that property transactions were at a 15-year low in November. Receipts of stamp duty showed that only 76,000 sales of commercial and residential property were finalised all over the country during that month.

"Sales were low in November because of the ending of the stamp duty concession," said Peter Cliff, spokesman for the estate agents' association. "The figures for December will be completely different."

Business comment, page 19

## Princess reunited with her sons

By ROBIN YOUNG

PRINCE William and Prince Harry were yesterday reunited with their mother, the Princess of Wales, after spending six days over Christmas away from her.

The princess looked excited as they arrived back at Kensington Palace just after 1pm having spent Christmas with their father and the rest of the royal family at Sandringham. The Prince of Wales had left

the estate during the morning to go hunting. The Queen kissed her grandsons goodbye and watched as they were driven off in a silver Sierra estate car.

The princess had spent Christmas at her family home at Althorp, Northamptonshire, having refused the Queen's invitation to spend Christmas at Sandringham.

There is speculation that the princess will now take her sons on holiday before they go

back to school, but Buckingham Palace would give no details, saying that the movements of the princess and her children were "a private matter". At Sandringham, the Duke of Edinburgh was joined by the Duke of York, Prince Edward and the Princess Royal's son Peter, 15, for a pheasant shoot at West Newton. Peter, who was taught to shoot by Prince Philip, is emerging as one of the royal family's best shots.



Milosevic boost to plan for a Greater Serbia

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# Law Society proposes intelligence network to trap rogue lawyers

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A CENTRAL intelligence network that could act as an early warning system about solicitors likely to abscond with clients' money or become involved in mortgage fraud is being considered by the Law Society.

The controversial proposal has been put forward to help stem the growing tide of losses arising from defaulting solicitors. Mortgage fraud, in particular, has swollen claims against the Solicitors' Compensation Fund, which pays out to victims of dishonest solicitors, to record levels in the past four years.

By the end of next year, claims against the fund are expected to reach £50 million. The knock-on for individual solicitors is certain to be a second emergency levy of more than £1,000.

Under the plans for a central intelligence network, information on dishonest solicitors would be passed between

the various departments of the Law Society, the solicitors' indemnity fund and the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau. At present the solicitors' indemnity fund, which handles negligence claims, cannot pass on information it has obtained while investigating firms.

A report by a Law Society working party points out that relaxing the rules would allow the fund to pass on information about a firm with a pattern of poor management and persistently low professional standards. Cash-flow problems often precede misuse of clients' funds.

Other measures being looked at include appointing a full-time fraud intelligence officer, extending the role of the accountant who approves a solicitor's yearly books, scrutinising office accounts, and improving the flow of information from bodies such as insurers, lending institutions and the police.

The full impact of mortgage fraud claims has yet to be felt: there is a multi-million pound mortgage fraud claim in the pipeline, and a recent fraud involving a Harrow solicitor, Guy Lucas, has involved payouts of £10 million from the solicitors' compensation fund.

The mortgage fraud section of the Metropolitan and City Police, set up in 1988, is working with other police fraud departments to devise a national strategy for tackling the problem. The Metropolitan and City police section has a team of 17 working full-time on 50 mortgage frauds ranging from hundreds of thousands to several million pounds.

Det Chief Supt Rodney Bellis, who heads the section, said that the state of the economy was a significant factor in the growth of mortgage fraud, as well as the loss of conveyancing.

"We are talking about only a tiny fraction (0.13 per cent) of solicitors involved in default," he said. "They don't seem to get a lot of money out of the fraud. Many of them seem to be struggling for work and do it just to keep going."

Almost every mortgage fraud, he points out, involves a solicitor. In one recent case, a man duped ten firms of solicitors. He arranged to borrow money from ten building societies to buy ten properties. He looked up a firm of solicitors, and set up a phoney branch at an accommodation address in east London. All the negotiations for the purchases were handled by him through that office. His bank was told to expect a sum of some £1 million into the bank, including £100,000 on a particular day.

"It all worked," Mr Bellis said, "except that he was greedy. There was an eleventh property where the money was held up. The building society involved rang his bogus office and got no reply. So they looked up the name of the firm and rang their office in the North. Of course, the solicitors didn't know anything about the branch office."

The section is working with the Council of Mortgage Lenders to try to ensure that checks are made. It has also, with the Law Society, set up a panel of solicitors from ten firms who are employed to help police examine a solicitor's files and help pinpoint the branch office.

The proposals, which may provoke concern about the increased intrusion of the society into the way solicitors run their practices, will be debated at a meeting of presidents and secretaries of local law societies on January 19.

## Abandoned baby found by children

By JULIA LLEWELLYN SMITH

POLICE were yesterday searching for the mother of a new-born baby found abandoned at a Nottinghamshire golf course by two young brothers, Paul and Nathan Keywood, aged 13 and 11, discovered the child while they were looking for a lost golf ball at Kilton Forest Golf Course near Worksop.

The baby, believed to be only 24 hours old, was wrapped in a thin cotton sheet and suffering from hypothermia. He was taken to Basildon General Hospital, where staff have christened him Christopher, and is said to be in a comfortable condition.

Police said: "This baby was clearly self-delivered. The umbilical cord had not been medically cut. We are concerned that the mother may be a young girl who became pregnant and had not told her parents, or is a young girl in care who ran off and had the baby over the Christmas weekend. She obviously panicked and abandoned the child."

The two boys called their father after finding the baby. Paul said: "He was only about as big as a loaf of bread. He had just a hand-towel around him and that wasn't even covering his head. He was crying and waving his legs about."

## Ashdown castigates 'Tory drift'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

PADDY Ashdown today urged Liberal Democrats to fight "public anger and hopelessness" by realising Britain's enormous untapped potential and modernising the country's democratic structure.

Declaring that "British politics isn't working", the Liberal Democrat leader used his new year's message to attack the government's lack of direction during a recession which "has driven Britain into despair". Mr Ashdown accuses Conservatives of abandoning election policies and replacing them with "drift, error and incoherence" lacking "direction or leadership".

The annual message concentrates on the need for electoral reform, despite accusations from some Liberal Democrats that over-emphasis on the issue during the election campaign cost the party votes.

"Britain's problem is rooted in our failed system of politics itself — and in the antiquated institutions which run our country. The real division is not between left and right but between those who want to modernise our country and those who want to keep it stuck as it is."

## Election boundary changes expected to boost Tories

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Conservatives' chances of winning the fifth general election have been boosted by the creation of new parliamentary constituencies in true blue areas. Under boundary changes agreed so far, they look certain to gain an extra nine seats and Labour only five. When the reshaping of the parliamentary map is complete, Conservative officials hope for a net gain of 12 seats.

The changes, in which wards are switched from seat to seat, are beginning to dominate the lives of leading politicians of all parties who are forced to find new seats. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, is likely to lose his Kingston-upon-Thames constituency. Graham Bright, the parliamentary aide to John Major, could be defeated in Luton and Nicholas Soames, the food minister, will trouble holding on to his seat of Crawley in West Sussex.

A group of Labour high-fliers such as Harriet Harman and Glenda Jackson could see pockets of Tory blue added, lethally, to their marginal constituencies. But the Opposition could gain a handful of seats in southern areas outside London.

So far 171 constituencies in 24 English shire counties have had their borders redrawn by the Boundary Commission with the creation of an extra 14 seats. The commission aims to reorganise all constituencies by the end of 1994 so that each has about 69,281 voters.

Key targets for the deposed or threatened MPs will be the new seats announced for Dorset, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Hampshire (two), Berkshire, Bedfordshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, North Yorkshire, Shropshire, Cambridgeshire, Suffolk and West Sussex.

John Major is not immune from the changes as the commission is shifting a large proportion of his 92,913 voters out of his Huntingdon seat, one of the largest in the country. But with a majority of

36,230, it remains one of the safest Tory seats in the country.

Kenneth Carlisle, the junior transport minister, will be at risk from a Labour challenge after changes to his Lincoln seat, where his majority was 2,049.

Sir Derek Spencer, the solicitor general, is also vulnerable as Labour's Hanover ward is to be included in his Brighton Pavilion seat, which he won with a 3,675 majority. Dame Janet Fookes, a deputy speaker, could lose her Plymouth Drake seat, where her majority is 2,013. The Kingston seat held since 1972 by Norman Lamont looks certain to disappear as the commission is thinking of redistributing his electorate of 51,077 voters between the neighbouring Tory seats of Richmond, Twickenham and Surbiton. The Chancellor will face the choice of trying to oust one of his neighbours, hunting for a new safe seat or seeking selection where a MP is retiring.

Nicholas Soames has confided to friends that he sees little hope of holding Crawley, where his majority in April was 7,765, when rural pockets of predominantly Tory voters are removed from the constituency.

Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary, also faces an uncertain future in his small City of London and Westminster South seat where he has only

55,021 voters. Changes in Luton to take account of the rising population could wipe out Graham Bright's 799 majority in the south of the town and also turn the north-east seat held by the maverick Conservative John Carlisle into a Tory marginal.

Labour will focus on winning new or newly-aligned southern seats in the Forest of Dean, Swindon, Plymouth, Luton, Slough, Basingstoke, Bristol and Dover. But the party could lose MPs in London from the addition of Tory wards to existing seats.

The next general election could be decided in the West Midlands where some of the hardest battles will be fought by party activists in public enquiries.

Tory and Labour party officials are fiercely disputing provisional recommendations at enquiries in the hope of having the final realignment changed in their favour. Labour's tactics are to campaign for "island seats" in town centres to increase their chances. The Tories want wedge-shaped seats, sprawling out from town centres through the suburbs and outlying rural belt.

The commission publishes provisional recommendations in the spring for most big city areas and will then start work on removing about 13 of London's 84 seats to reflect the population move to the suburbs.



Jackson: faces problems in holding Hampstead



Bright: likely to lose his seat in Luton

## School standards fail to improve

By RAY CIANCY

STANDARDS in state primary schools have fallen or remained static despite the introduction of the national curriculum three years ago, according to a report by government inspectors published yesterday.

There were no improvements in most of the 10 subjects laid down in the curriculum which was brought in by the then education secretary, Kenneth Baker, with the aim of raising standards. Ability in maths and reading for some age groups was a cause for concern, the inspectors say, with reading among less able pupils singled out.

Primary science and some parts of the English course were the only areas to show improvement and in science

standards had been "broadly maintained".

The report concludes that the new curriculum has "not so far led to any discernible general rise in standards". Many teachers' assessments this year had, however, become more accurate.

In maths, the best progress was among five year olds but overall there was no rise in standards. "The proportion of unsatisfactory work at ages six, seven and 12 gives cause for concern," the report says.

The inspectors were most worried about reading. "Most schools continued to achieve satisfactory or better standards in reading at the age of five. But enthusiasm for reading among less able pupils began to decline after that."

Technology was another

area where improvements have failed to materialise.

Although the levels attained in the first three years of primary education were "of acceptable standard" and teachers had worked hard to introduce the new compulsory subject, the work covered was often "narrow in scope". The report says: "The quality of work among 11 year olds gave considerable cause for concern."

The authors, however, note that while a general improvement had not occurred, "it would have been unreasonable to expect that of a reform which will take many years fully to implement."

They add: "The widespread dislocation of the work of schools predicted by some has not occurred."



Chess queens: the Hungarian grandmaster Judit Polgar, 16, left, with her sister Sofia, 18, at the Hastings International Chess Tournament.

Russian Evgeny Bareev, who was the pre-tournament favourite.

Bareev drew his first round game against Matthew Sadler, 18, of Rochester, Kent, who is trying to become England's youngest grandmaster in this event.

After that excellent start, Sadler slowed down somewhat with a draw against the British master Colin

Crouch. Bareev, after his first-round draw with Sadler, beat Gurevich in round two.

Speelman defeated the American master Ilya Gurevich in brilliant style and drew with the dangerous Russian veteran Lev Polugaevsky to advance to 1½ points.

Nunn, from London, defeated Polugaevsky with a superb series of

sacrifices in round one and, in the second round, drew with Judit Polgar. Polgar, the world's youngest grandmaster, moved up among the leaders after beating Crouch in the first round.

The Hastings tournament lasts until January 13. It is an eight-player elite double round contest.

## Major wants Serb sanctions toughened

John Major calls for tougher sanctions against the Serbs today as he rebukes the warring factions in the former republics of Yugoslavia for showing no will for peace (Sheila Gunn writes). At the end of Britain's tenure of the EC presidency, the prime minister writes in *The European* that the EC has no choice but to increase the pressure.

"The warring parties have frustrated efforts to find a solution: they show no will for peace," says Mr Major adding that, despite the EC leaders' determination, the conflict in Bosnia was worsening.

"We are all angered by Serb arrogance in defying the United Nations security council. Their response has left us with no choice but to increase the pressure. Sanctions have been getting tighter and can be tougher still."

Although the UN is about to allow the international community to enforce the "no-fly" zone, the prime minister adds that, in the end, negotiations and a peace settlement are the only long-term options for the warring parties.

Muslims' chance, page 7

## Man burnt to death

A man died of severe burns after setting fire to himself while trying to light a butane gas heater in his garden shed. Police said that Clive Cheatham, 50, had argued with his wife and planned to spend the night in the shed at his home at Bentley, West Midlands. Neighbours rushed to help him in the early hours of Monday after seeing him on fire and struggling to escape through a window. They put out the flames with a fire extinguisher and a blanket, but his clothing re-ignited and he was engulfed. One neighbour said: "He was screaming 'Help me, Help me'. His whole body was on fire." Police said that he appeared to have sprayed himself with gas while trying to light the heater.

## Holidays lift gloom

Nine out of 10 Britons will take at least one holiday next year, according to a travel company survey. More than half said the promise of a holiday would make it easier to cope with the pressures of the recession and three-quarters said they would return refreshed and able to work better. The research, by Hosesons, showed that this year's break helped 71 per cent of holidaymakers to forget about money and work worries, while 95 per cent felt much happier afterwards. Many, however, believed that future holidays must be safeguarded by redundancy insurance. The survey also indicated that people worked harder before their holiday — perhaps helping indirectly to safeguard their jobs.

## Dead woman's quest

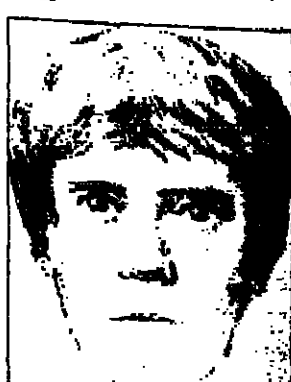
The family of Terri Stevens, the young British woman found murdered in Israel, said yesterday that their daughter died in a quest for excitement. Bill and Di Stevens, of Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, said that their daughter was bitten by the travel bug three years ago after a holiday alone in Europe. Unable to find a job that she wanted in Britain, Miss Stevens, 20, set off on a round-the-world trip. She was found dead on Christmas night, strangled and beaten. She had been living and working on a co-operative farm.

## Victim tells of arson

An Asian car salesman found ablaze near his home in Huddersfield has told police that three white men set his clothing alight after dousing him with a flammable liquid. Mohammed Sadiq had previously been too ill to be interviewed about the attack on Saturday night, after which he was found screaming in pain on waste land. He is in hospital with 60 per cent burns to his chest, back and legs. Superintendent Peter Bottomley said: "The motive for the attack is unclear but we do not think it is racial."

## Girl tells of rape ordeal

Police issued an artist's impression, right, last night of the man seen by a 14-year-old rape victim seconds before she was attacked in Lanchester, co. Durham. The hunt for the man was stepped up after the girl gave police her first clear account of her ordeal, which happened as she was finishing her paper round on December 19. The man was wearing a black tracksuit with green stripes.



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## Policewomen in the front line: calls for body armour, batons and better training

# Female patrols refuse to be intimidated by danger of attack

BY STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN police officers will not retreat from frontline duties and want full equality in spite of attacks such as the killing of WPC Lesley Harrison, the leader of 15,000 female officers said yesterday.

Inspector Vee Nield, general secretary of the Police Federation and chairwoman of the federation's women's conference, said efforts were being made to find better protection for female officers.

Ms Nield, who works in the West Midlands, said women "joined to be police officers."

They did not join to be female officers and they know the rigours and hazards. They do not want to be treated differently. They get quite upset, and justifiably so, if people say they are women and should not be on the front line."

She said female officers were aware of the risks they faced, especially as the number of knife incidents is increasing. Some years ago, policewomen did not carry on the same duties as male officers but this was changed after pressure from female officers.

The Police Federation covers all ranks up to chief inspector and each year members representing women officers meet separately before the annual conference. Ms Nield said that last year delegates at the women's conference raised the question of better protection and for the first time expressed anxiety about their vulnerability.

She said the search for suitable body armour was still going on as that currently available was either effective but too heavy or was light and offered too little protection. The Home Office is thought to have looked at American designs.

A spokesman for the Police Federation said yesterday that the rest of its leaders shared Ms Nield's view that equality means women officers must face the same policing duties as men. The federation is campaigning not only for the introduction of better protection and the use of American-style batons, which are longer than British versions and can keep attackers at a distance, but also for better training in self-defence.

The federation has been pressing for several years for greater action from the courts and the Crown Prosecution Service in punishing offenders convicted of assaulting police. There have been claims in the past that the CPS has settled for prosecuting more minor offences rather than pursuing offenders rigorously.

Police representatives have also repeatedly called for courts to impose custodial sentences for assaults. According to the federation, less than one in five of those convicted of attacking police officers goes to prison.

The growing use of knives has concerned chief constables as well as the junior ranks and many forces, including the Metropolitan police, have staged publicity campaigns and amnesties to persuade the public, especially young people, to hand in weapons. The campaigns have had limited results, leaving forces to consider how much protection they should give officers and whether armoured vests or body armour could provoke more assaults.

View to return, page 1  
Leading article, page 13



Fairer face of the law: WPC Anne Woodhouse from Leam Street in east London wears an anti-stab jacket. In 1919, the severe jacket and voluminous skirt, rit. were matched by a thick belt and solid shoes



## Pioneers worked in the shadow of men

BY OUR CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND Yard took no chances when the first official policewomen started patrolling the streets in 1919. Working in pairs, the women were followed at a distance by two burly male constables acting as bodyguards.

Developed from volunteer and quasi-official women's police units formed during the first world war, the cadre of 110 women was heavily restricted. They had to retire on marriage, were given no power of arrest, no truncheon, little training and no rights of representation.

Within three years, the Yard tried to disband the unit as part of economy measures. The proposal was attacked by a doughty woman MP and the unit was instead reduced to 24 women.

Three government enquiries in the 1920s called for greater recruitment of women officers but the decision was left to local forces. Many were slow to heed the call although the work of policewomen in some CID tasks and the questioning of children and rape victims was praised by

several senior chief constables. By 1939, only 45 forces out of 183 in England and Wales employed women and the total number of officers had only reached 282. Half were in London and some still had no powers of arrest.

Just as the first world war prompted the creation of the woman constable, the second spurred greater recruitment when the Home Office forced recalcitrant forces to act. Even in peacetime the pace was still slow, with women kept in a separate department or left to deal with office management, clerical work and children.

The great changes began when the Sex Discrimination Act opened the way in 1975 for test cases and forced a widening of the possible roles for female officers. An RUC reservist won a crucial case two

years later that allowed female officers to be armed and also led that they could not be excluded from general duties and their own protection.

Female officers can now be in rioting motorbikes on foot patrol, among the best of Special branch bodyguards for politicians, working as undercover D officers and in riot teams. Women make up 12 per cent of detectives and 3 per cent of traffic officers.

Women have still not reached the top command echelons although some senior officers believe there could be a male chief constable by the year 2000. Such news would evoke a yawn in America: Austin, one of the biggest American cities, had a female chief two years ago.

The uniform for British woman police officers has always closely followed the style of their male colleagues and offers no extra protection apart from a reinforced helmet. The 1919 uniform was made and designed by Harrods. At least one early officer later recorded how she shuddered when she saw herself wearing it and wondered whether she should have joined in the first place.

Since those days, the skirt has risen higher and the jacket has become looser to show a tie, and then a cravat or bow tie.

The Metropolitan police and other forces accepted in the 1980s that women officers should be able to wear trousers and many now do so on patrol because of the prospect of facing a melee.

## Officers lobby for US-style truncheons

BY NICHOLAS WATT

THE policewoman stabbed as she confronted a suspected burglar would have had a fighting chance if armed with a 2ft-long American-style baton, the Police Federation said yesterday.

Last month Kenneth Clarke, the home secretary, turned down police requests to try the baton, which has a handle on the side, because he said it was provocative. But George Crichton, chairman of Merseyside Police Federation, said he would be lobbying the Home Office to reconsider the decision.

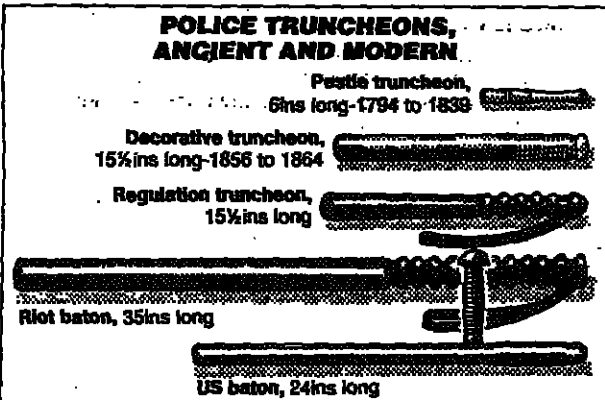
"In the right hands the baton is an excellent defensive instrument," he said. "It would have given WPC Harrison a fighting chance. And if police officers have more protection they are going to be more helpful to the public, who will in turn be more confident."

Police forces throughout

Britain have been trying longer truncheons and early in the new year Dorset police will be issued with Britain's longest model. Officers believe that the truncheon, which is 20½ in long, will keep attackers at bay more successfully than the conventional version which is 14½ in long.

Most women police officers are not issued with the standard truncheon, relying instead on a nine-inch model designed to fit their handbags. But two police forces, Avon and Somerset and Greater Manchester, have this year started issuing the standard length truncheons to women.

David Skinner, secretary of Avon and Somerset Police Federation, said yesterday: "Our female officers were pleased by the decision. But this is only a step in the right direction and we would like to see trials of the American batons."



## Native wit shields WPC from violence

BY LIN JENKINS

WPC Valerie Lau has no illusions about the dangers of her job. But in three years in the force she has suffered fewer physical assaults than she did in her previous job as a psychiatric nurse.

She finds it patronising that outsiders should see fit to comment on a woman's role in the police. Years of experience have evolved a system that she believes works. Men and women are treated equally and both have the choice of what they do and how much danger they face.

As half of the team of two in a fast-response car, the 5ft 4in, slightly built WPC from co. Wicklow is fully prepared to face danger. Physical strength comes last on her list of qualities required. Native wit, confidence and training are the important attributes.

"I'm not a coward. I will be the first in, especially if someone needs help, but you don't want to die a hero. Why put myself at risk that won't help anybody," she explained.

She is confident to walk the streets alone at night, something she would not do when out of uniform and not carrying a radio. "I know that at any time I can call for assistance. We all do it, the men as well, and they would be as pleased to see me turn up to help as a male colleague."

Policing demonstrations, football matches and riots is her favourite area of work. With a heavy modern riot shield in hand she can beat many of her male colleagues in training sprints. "I hope to go into the mounted branch. I like the sort of work they do and it is the one area of police

work the public still likes. The people who turn and swear when they see a Panda car draw up will go up to a horse and ask if they can give it a mint.

"I enjoy demonstrations. I like chases, I like getting a good result in court and I like seeing victims of crime being happy, which unfortunately does not happen a lot."

While WPC Lau supports equality in the force, she is adamant that she is not a feminist. "I do what I can do, but if I can't lift something I will put up my hands and ask a fella to do it. I just do my best. In some cases, women in this job are brilliant and the fella's awful, but you cannot tell in advance which it will be."

The occasions when a member of the public has refused to take her seriously have been

few. Once two men reported to have been looking into cars and trying doors refused to stop when she and another WPC approached. "They kept saying we had no grounds on which to stop them and pushed passed. We kept them talking until male officers arrived and they held up their hands and said, 'look we don't need this'. They were as good as gold when the boys turned up."

She does not view that incident as an argument against women in the force, simply an example of how important it is to all police to have good back-up. "You can choose where you go in the force. After initial training, if you want to concentrate on domestic violence, child abuse, court work or the control room, you can."

## Missing jeans may be key to murder

BY ANGELA MACKAY

POLICE hunting the murderer of Johanna Young, the 14-year-old whose partly clad body was found floating in a gravel pit on Boxing day, are hoping forensic reports will provide a breakthrough.

Detectives believe the girl's missing jeans may also hold clues to the murderer's identity and yesterday appealed for information.

"We think someone may have picked them up inadvertently and think it is too late to come forward," a police spokesman said. The police also want to talk to someone who may have picked up Johanna's black shoes and placed them at the roadside. They were later found by a man walking his dog.

"We can't believe they were left there like that by the murderer in the turmoil of all that happened that night. We think somebody may have

found them and moved them so they could be seen," the spokesman said.

Johanna's body was discovered near her home in Watton, near Dereham, Norfolk. A full-scale search of the pit by police divers, expected to start yesterday morning, was put back 24 hours as forensic experts continued their examination of the area.

Johanna's parents yesterday travelled to James Paget hospital, Gorleston, Norfolk, to see her for the first time since her body was recovered. A post mortem showed she died from drowning and suffered severe head injuries. She had been sexually assaulted.

Detective Superintendent Michael Cole, who is leading the investigation, said he believed Johanna was killed on the night she disappeared, probably by someone she knew.

## Fish oil raises hope of cancer treatment

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITISH scientists have isolated a substance responsible for weight loss in cancer patients, and have shown that its action can be controlled by fish oil. The discovery could lead to earlier diagnosis of cancer and to new forms of treatment.

Professor Mike Tisdale and colleagues at Aston University in Birmingham have shown that a hormone-like substance produced by some solid tumours causes the breakdown of muscle and fat. The substance, named cachectic factor, uses the fat supplies to feed the growing cancer, causing wasting of the body, which is often one of the first signs of the disease.

A substance called eicosapentaenoic acid (EPA) found in oil from mackerel, salmon and sardines, has been shown to prevent the action of cachectic factor. Not

only could fish oil be used to prevent weight loss in cancer patients, but there is also evidence that it can shrink tumours.

"The protein obviously needs to take things from other body cells, and by blocking this process hopefully we can shrink the tumour," Professor Tisdale said.

The Cancer Research Campaign, which has supported the work, is planning clinical trials starting next autumn. Professor Gordon McVie, a spokesman, said the finding may explain why Eskimos, who eat a lot of fish, have a low cancer incidence. "We have been looking for a link between diet and cancer for 20 years, and this could be it. This exciting new research may point the way forward for the treatment of those cancers which have so far proved resistant to treatment."

# Quality is always good news

## In 1992 BBC News and Current Affairs won 21 top awards for its journalism on TV and Radio

- The Today Programme**
  - Voice of the Listener and Viewer - most outstanding radio programme of the year • Gold Sony Radio Award - best speech based breakfast show
  - Broadcasting Press Guild - top radio programme • Amnesty International Human Rights Press Award - Allan Little
- Panorama**
  - Royal Television Society - best current affairs programme - The Max Factor • Broadcasting Press Guild - best single documentary - The Max Factor • BAFTA - best single documentary - The Max Factor
- In Business**
  - Industrial Society - industrial journalist of the year, Peter Day • European Quality Award For The Media
- The Money Programme**
  - Harold Wincott Award - best business programme of the year
- BBC News**
  - Voice of the Listener and Viewer - most outstanding contribution to television, Michael Buerk
  - Women in Television contribution to the medium award, Kate Adie • London Press Club Award for outstanding reporting, Martin Bell
  - Gold Sony Radio Award - reporter of the year, Allan Little
- BBC Foreign News**
  - FITA Richard Dimbleby Award for outstanding reporting, John Simpson
- The World Tonight**
  - New York Radio Festival Gold Award - for news analysis
- File on 5**
  - Institute for the Study of Drug Dependence New Journalism Award • One World Broadcasting Premier Award for network radio-for programme on drought in Zimbabwe • Howard League for Penal Reform Media Award - for programme on Feltham Prison
- Letter From America**
  - Voice of the Listener and Viewer - most outstanding contribution to radio, Ailsa Cooke • Broadcasting Press Guild-radio broadcaster of the year, Ailsa Cooke



BBC News and Current Affairs - Journalism you can trust.

When the bells have rung out, *The Times* on January 1 looks ahead to events, changes and anniversaries for 1993 and charts the successes in the arts in 1992.

What will new-look independent television have in store from breakfast time on Friday? As the single European market begins and the barriers come down, how will these events affect our lives?



Then what do Mao Tse-tung and Marsha Graham have in common? Henry James and the *Economist*? Look in the 1993 anniversary guide.

David Miller, chief sports correspondent, does some crystal-ball gazing for 1993 and Norman Lamont talks frankly about the year ahead.

The Arts pages prefer to look back: which



film pushed *Hook* into second place in 1992? At *Dillon's* which non-fiction book outsold *Sex*, the book by Madonna? What was the top-selling classical album? Read *The Times* on January 1



# Vauxhall clinches first contract to sell hatchbacks in Japan

By KEVIN EASON  
MOTORING  
CORRESPONDENT

VAUXHALL is to sell cars to Japan in a multi-million pound deal which could be a significant breakthrough into the world's toughest market for the British motor industry.

The company's plant at Ellesmere Port on Merseyside is understood to be the leading contender for a share in an order for hundreds of cars placed by Japanese importers with General Motors, Vauxhall's owner. The cars will be the first supplied to Japan by a Vauxhall factory in the company's 89-year history.

Vauxhall was unwilling to confirm details of the deal yesterday although it is known that GM executives from Britain and Germany have just returned from Japan after finalising a deal.

How GM will split the order between its European factories is not yet known but the Luton plant in Bedfordshire will also be competing to supply the Cavalier, Britain's best selling company car.

The order comes at a time when the confidence of British

Drivers in Tokyo are realising that cars made by British workers can equal the quality of those made in Japan

car makers is at a low ebb after three years of recession. But Vauxhall is thriving and has proved that Japan, the most elusive market for European motor companies, can be penetrated.

The significance of the order is that Vauxhall will be asked to supply the Astra, a small car that competes directly with some of Japan's most popular domestic models. Japanese buyers have long shunned European rivals, believing their home-built cars are better built and more reliable.

This has confined European sales to high-priced models, including Jaguars and Mercedes. Only Rover's Mini has sold in large numbers in the small car sector, but as a cult car among young buyers.

Perceptions have changed rapidly since the Japanese built their own car plants in Britain. Nissan, Toyota and Honda have invested a total of almost £2 billion here and

have found that British workers can make cars that are as good as those from Japan.

Nissan's factory at Washington, Tyne and Wear started to supply the mid-range Primera model to Japan last year. Nissan officials say the British cars meet Japanese quality targets.

The Astra will have to compete for sales against some of Japan's biggest selling models, including the Nissan Sunny, Honda Civic and Toyota Corolla, the world's best selling car.

GM executives are confident that the Ellesmere Port Astra are meeting reliability targets that will convince Japanese buyers. Bill Elber, Vauxhall's chairman and managing director, said the company had increased productivity this year by 8 per cent, raising output to record levels. Luton and Ellesmere Port made 302,047 cars in 1992, an increase of 15.3 per cent on last year.

With the British new car market in recession, Vauxhall has switched its focus to exports, increasing sales in Europe by 37 per cent in 1992 to 111,796 cars, making a contribution to its balance of payments of more than £648 million.

Although the Japanese order will not match the scale of sales to Europe, it carries enormous prestige for GM's British workforce. Vauxhall executives will start the new year working on price specifications for the cars to be sold in Japan, where they will be German-built Calibras.

They are not likely to differ significantly from Astras sold in Britain but Vauxhall executives are already puzzled by one demand from Japanese customers. Although the Japanese drive on the same side of the road as the British, they are likely to want conventional left-hand drive cars, which neighbours will know they own a foreign vehicle.



Smiling through: Leslie Crowther, 59, at home for Christmas with his wife Jean. Mr Crowther, who has been in hospital since a car crash in October, returned to his home in Corston near Bath for two visits. Mrs Crowther said that she had high hopes for his recovery

Dante prepares to brave the inferno

## Volcano tests a robot bound for Mars

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

PERCHED on the edge of a volcano 800 miles from the South Pole, an eight-legged robot is being made ready for a journey into the underworld.

Within the next few days, the £1.3 million robot, called Dante, will clamber into the crater of Mount Erebus, a 12,447ft mountain on Ross Island in Antarctica. Braving temperatures of 1,100 Fahrenheit, it will collect the first samples of gases direct from a volcano's vents and send live television pictures to the Goddard space flight centre run by NASA in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Yesterday, the 12-man expedition had established camp near the edge of the crater and was readying Dante for the descent, which could begin today. As well as learning more about conditions inside

the crater, the project is a test run for robots that will one day explore Mars.

David Lavery, manager of NASA's telepresence programme, said: "The Erebus project lets us test a rover in the most Mars-like place on Earth while giving us the payoff of using it to obtain unique scientific information."

Dante, named after the author of the *Divina Commedia* which describes a trip to hell, has been built in a rush so that an attempt can be made on Erebus before the Antarctic summer ends. The robot stands more than 8ft tall and has been designed and built at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh.

A dozen electric motors operate its spider-like legs and give it a maximum speed of around 6ft a minute. Informa-

tion and pictures will be sent through an umbilical cord to the crater rim, and then by satellite to Goddard.

Erebus was chosen because it is one of only three volcanoes in the world with a permanent lava lake inside its crater. Dante will be lowered 850ft to the edge of the lake and will take temperature readings, measure gas compositions and retrieve gas samples from volcanic vents. The gases, lava and flying rocks hurled from the depths make the crater far too dangerous for human exploration.

While in the crater, Dante will have to navigate cliffs, overhangs, soft ash beds and other difficult terrain. Its designer, Dr William Whitaker of Carnegie-Mellon, said: "It's as bad as it gets."

A gas chromatograph car-

ried by Dante will be used to sample gases as they emerge from volcanic vents, known as fumaroles. The composition of these gases should provide information about the source of the magma supplying the volcano.

Vulcanologists suspect that they will contain a high proportion of carbon dioxide, a theory it is impossible to test from a safe position on the crater's rim. Dante should also gather samples of a powdery material that surrounds the fumaroles. This is thought to contain gold, copper and zinc which have condensed from the hot gases.

Conditions will be tough even for a robot, with superheated steam and clouds of acid. The idea, says NASA, is to test technology in an extremely harsh environment.

NEWS IN BRIEF

## Baby boy is stabbed in the back

A man was arrested after a 15-month-old boy was taken to hospital yesterday with a punctured lung from a stab wound in his back.

Police were called to a house in Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, by the baby's mother, a nurse, who discovered her son lying on his stomach and bleeding heavily shortly after midnight.

Detective Inspector Peter Burrows, of Milton Keynes police, said: "The mother is a nurse and administered first aid to her son before the emergency services arrived. The baby had been stabbed once in the back with a kitchen carving knife. The child is recovering in hospital."

## Drink-driver caught again

Jeremy Smith, 29, of Leicester, was remanded in custody by the city's magistrates after being caught drinking and driving for the 14th time and driving while banned for the 35th time.

Smith, who was banned from driving for 30 years in 1989, was caught on Monday only 38 days after being released from prison.

## Death charge

Sidney Wood, 43, a builder of Wetheringsett, Suffolk, was remanded in custody by Lowestoft magistrates charged with murdering Kathleen Rogers, whose body was found in a ditch on Monday.

## Air turbulence

Kevin Blackburn, 25, of South Shields, Tyne and Wear, has been charged with endangering the safety of passengers after a brawl on a flight from Aberdeen to Newcastle.

## Escaper held

Police called to a disturbance in Gillingham, Kent, found Simon Whitaker, who escaped from Ramsgate police station 18 months ago.

## Woman killed

Maureen Shaughnessy, 55, was found strangled and lying face down in her bath in Bethnal Green, east London.

## Milkman's eyes glued by thieves

A MILKMAN who had superglue squirted in his eyes yesterday while on his rounds in Cheltenham, Gloucestershire, was released from hospital with his eyelids still stuck together.

Adrian Stayte, 27, of Cheltenham, was attacked at 3.45am by two men who knocked him to the ground and sprayed the glue into his face and eyes. They then fled after discovering he had no cash worth taking.

Eye specialists at the Gloucestershire Royal Hospital in Gloucester decided not to make immediate attempts to unstuck Mr Stayte's eyes to allow time to help the process.

Nigel Kenry, general manager of Cheltenham Dairies, said the attack had been stupid because milkmen carry hardly any cash and would not have been collecting payments so early in the morning. He said doctors were "reasonably confident" that Mr Stayte's sight would not be affected.

"It's difficult to imagine what sort of person would do this. They must have realised they could have blinded him for life," he said.

## Soaring prices leave clouds in the coffee

By ROBIN YOUNG

HIGHER coffee prices are expected to filter through to supermarket shelves in 1993 after a 50 per cent increase in the cost of beans over the past three months.

International prices, which were at a 22-year low in mid-September, have risen sharply after reports that the world's biggest coffee growers, Brazil and Colombia, were cutting production.

The London coffee consultants F.O. Licht said yesterday: "European coffee manufacturers are considering increasing retail prices in growing belief that the current rally in the world's coffee markets marks the start of a long-term trend."

A spokesman for Nestlé, producer of Nescafé, said there were no plans for increases yet, but added that the firm was "constantly reviewing" the market. Nestlé has not changed the price of its 100 gram jar of Nescafé since 1985.

The benchmark price of quality arabica coffee on the New York futures market has climbed from under 50 cents a pound to nearly 75 cents in the past three months. F.O.

Licht predicts that traders' prices could reach \$1.20 a pound in the new year.

"More big increases in the price of beans will make it difficult for the big producers to hold down their retail prices," the company's analyst said.

Peter Kettle, an analyst with the London trade house E.D. & F. Man, said: "There has been a substantial improvement in green coffee prices now that there is clear evidence of reduced production in many countries, where growers have simply been getting out of coffee in despair."

"As yet, though, the last three months' increase has only cancelled the decline we saw in the first nine months of 1992. Coffee prices now are roughly where they were a year ago and it could take three to six months before UK manufacturers change their prices."

Britons drink 100 million cups of coffee a day, 90 per cent of them instant. The price per cup works out at 2.7p for standard instant, 4p for real espresso and just over 5p for premium instant.

## Appeal supports disaster relief charity

By RUTH GLEDHILL

THE 1st AID appeal, which aims to raise £1 million for immediate disaster relief, will help to fund a charity that provides instant medical aid in areas hit by disaster.

Smart, an independent international charity, needs funds for life-saving and emergency equipment, an office and co-ordinating centre. The charity's efforts are being led by Anthony Redmond, a consultant surgeon at the North Staffordshire Trauma Centre in Stoke-on-Trent.

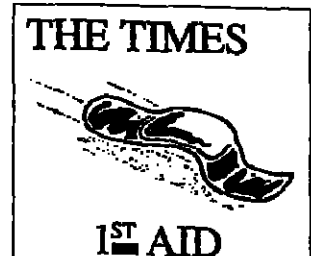
He is hoping to set up the world's first academic department specialising in emergency and disaster medicine, at Keele University, and also wants to gather accurate information

about what happens when disasters such as a civil war or an earthquake strikes a country.

Mr Redmond has up to 50 doctors, nurses and paramedics on call in Britain to rush to disasters throughout the world. He was sent to Sarajevo earlier this year by John Major to assess the medical needs and how Britain might help.

In 1988, at the request of the Overseas Development Administration, Mr Redmond led a party of British doctors to treat casualties of the Armenian earthquake. Two days later, he was asked by the RAF to fly to Lockerbie within an hour of the air crash.

He believes that many lives could be saved after a



disaster if the right technology and medical teams were on the spot. "Of course, you should be concerned with immunising children and sorting out water supplies, but that does not mean you should ignore someone who has a perfectly treatable condition."

The 1st AID appeal is co-ordinated by the World Memorial Fund for Disaster Relief, an international charity set up by the late Lord

Cheshire with the backing of the United Nations. The Times top 1,000 companies are being asked for support.

Sir Peter Ramsbotham, a former ambassador to the US and a trustee of the appeal, said: "The idea of 1st AID is to provide emergency relief so that aid can get there very quickly."

The Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) will be responsible for all banking and donation aspects of 1st AID. Donations can be made by phoning the credit card hotline on 0272 226688 (24 hours); cheque/postal order payable to 1st AID and sent to 1st AID Appeal, c/o CAF, Freepost, TN 2257, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. TN2 5BR; or over the counter at any Bradford and Bingley Building Society or Midland Bank.

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## Pesticide ban allows birds of prey to reach new heights

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S birds of prey are thriving as never before, with populations of some familiar species, such as peregrine falcons and sparrowhawks, thought to be at all-time high levels.

Common predators such as buzzards and kestrels are steadily increasing, more local species such as goshawks and hobbies are spreading across the country, and rarities once extinct in Britain such as the osprey and sea eagle, or those nearly extinct, such as the red kite, have had their best recorded year in 1992.

Several factors have combined to make Britain a happy hunting ground for hawks and falcons, including the banning of harmful pesticides, full protection in law for birds of prey and more enlightened attitudes from gamekeepers.

Most important has been the banning of DDT, aldrin and dieldrin, agricultural pesticides which accumulate in the food chain, where birds of prey are the final link. Those chemicals threatened to wipe out several species in the 1950s, with sparrowhawks and peregrines disappearing from large parts of Britain, especially the agricultural areas of eastern England where pesticide use was heaviest.

Since their banning, between 1963 and 1986, bird recovery has been dramatic, with sparrowhawks in particular representing "a spectacular success story", according to the British Trust for Ornithology. Sparrowhawk numbers have increased from a low of 5,000 pairs to about 30,000 pairs today and the bird, rarely seen in gardens 20 years ago, is now a common visitor. Peregrines have also benefited

from the pesticide ban, and Britain has the best population in northern Europe, with more than 1,000 pairs.

Gamekeepers, who once shot any bird of prey, have become more enlightened, which has helped commoner species such as buzzards and kestrels, and rarer ones such as the hobby and goshawk, to maintain a steady increase. All birds of prey have been fully protected by law since the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. A gamekeeper who killed one would face prosecution, and possible loss of his job, says Ian Wylie of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology at Huntingdon, who has been monitoring the increase.

"It probably also helps that pheasants are now more frequently reared indoors and released when they are too big to be a target for, say, a kestrel," Dr Wylie said.

The merlin, Britain's smallest falcon, is the only exception to the record of increases. It has been in apparent decline for a number of years, perhaps because of loss of its preferred moorland habitat to conifer plantations, but new research says it may be holding its own, according to Mike Everett of the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.

With Britain's rarities, however, the 1992 success story is clear. Ospreys, the fish-eating eagles that returned to breed in Scotland in 1954 after being driven to extinction in 1916, now number more than 60 pairs, and this year the thousandth osprey chick was hatched from a Scottish nest, Mr Everett said.

The sea eagle, an even more majestic flyer lost from Scotland in the same year, is now

thriving on the island of Rhum after its reintroduction in 1975. This year, eight pairs attempted to breed and seven young were fledged from four nests.

In Wales, red kites had their best breeding season for more than a century, with 79 pairs raising 93 young between them, and for the first time since 1870 the bird, a common sight in Shakespeare's London, has bred in England. Four introduced pairs produced ten young at secret sites, while another introduced pair fledged a chick in Scotland.

England's sole pair of golden eagles, nesting high on a Lake District crag, also kept their famous breeding foothold with a single chick.

There is still concern, however, for farmland birds such as grey partridges, skylarks, corn buntings and turtle doves which are showing declines because of loss of habitat brought about by intensive farming.



Happy hunting ground: peregrine falcons are thriving in Britain

## Algae fuel dream of green power

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH engineers are preparing to build a small power station run entirely on algae, the tiny organisms that live in ponds, lakes and seas.

The project, which has funding from the Department of Trade and Industry, will attempt to prove that algae offer an alternative to traditional power station fuels. Paul Jenkins, of the University of the West of England in Bristol, said yesterday: "It may seem like a crazy idea but our research indicates that the fuel has important environmental and cost benefits."

Electricity from an algal power station could cost about three pence a unit, significantly cheaper than nuclear power and comparable to the cost of coal, oil and older gas-powered stations. The fuel can be cultivated in special tanks on land.

With further development, we believe the cost of electricity from algae could be as low as two-and-a-half pence a unit or the same as a modern combined-cycle gas turbine," said Dr Jenkins, a researcher in the engineering department.

Algae act like mini solar cells, using carbon dioxide and sunlight to grow. Unlike

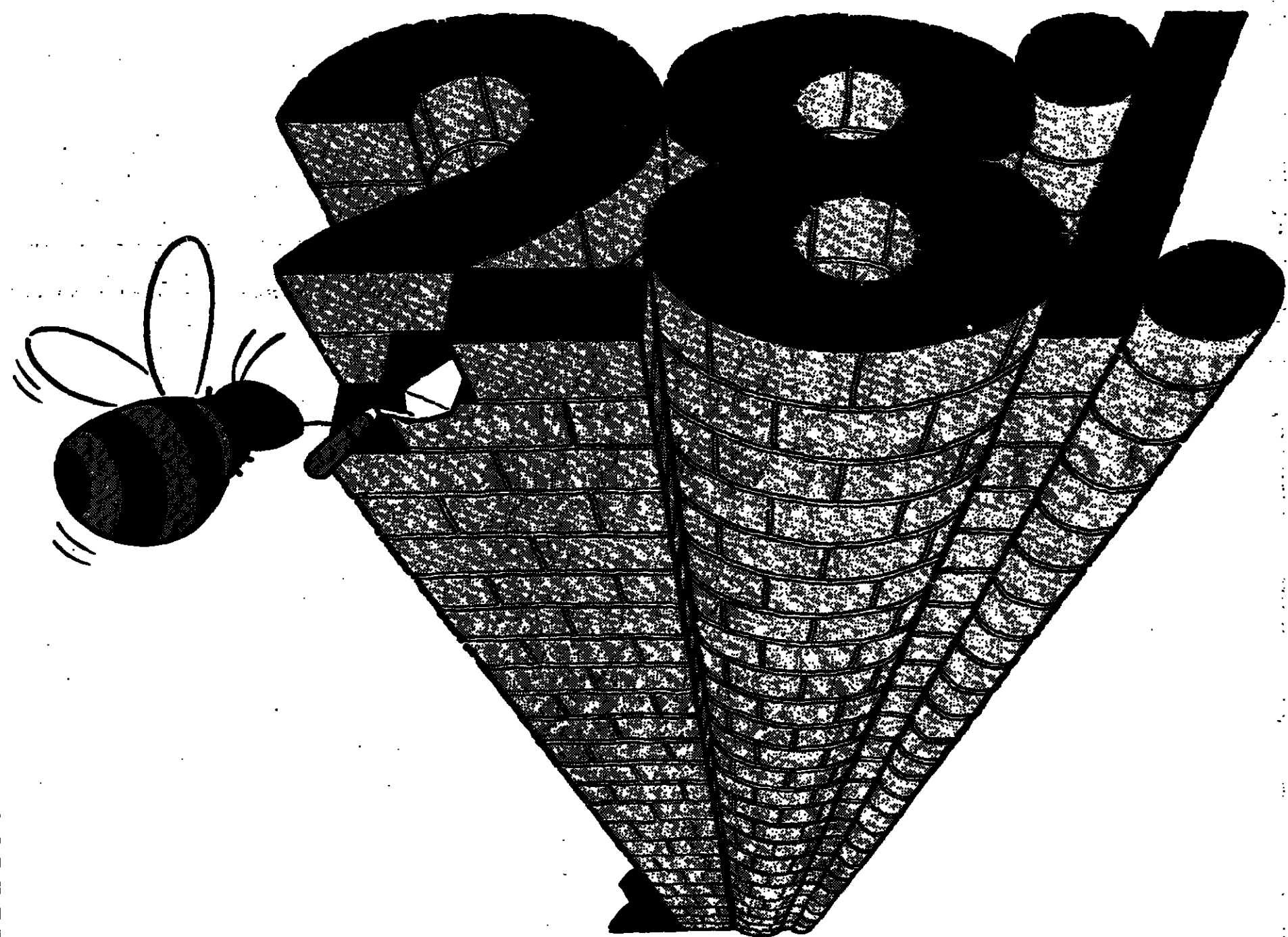
man-made solar cells, the energy from algae can be stored as a dry fuel and burnt on cloudy days.

When growing, algae take in as much carbon dioxide as it produces when burnt, making it environmentally neutral. Details of the research will be announced at the Institution of Chemical Engineers' 1993 research event, taking place next month at Birmingham University.

Using algae for fuel has been considered for about ten years but huge amounts of energy have been needed to filter algae from the water in which they grow. Dr Jenkins' team is using a new type of tank known as a biocoil to grow the algae, a single-cell type called *Chlorella*, which allows it to be harvested more easily.

The team is planning to build a 600-kilowatt prototype power station within 18 months to further the research. The electricity-generating potential could be huge. Dr Jenkins estimated that algal power stations and biocoils sited on an area measuring 22 miles by 22 miles could meet the entire nation's electricity needs.

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## Twitchers use DNA test to solve mystery

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO birdwatchers have unravelled a mystery that had fascinated the twitchers' world for four years, using investigative methods worthy of forensic scientists.

Mark Cubitt and Mary Carruthers of Tynemouth Ornithological Group used DNA testing and computer analysis of birdsong to prove that mystery birds found each summer since 1989 on the North Sea coast are Swinhoe's petrels. They normally reside 6,000 miles away in Japan and Korea.

Petrels are shy creatures about the size of a house martin and with drab plumage. They spend most of their life on the ocean and are active mainly at night. When the birds that visited the North East failed to fit descriptions of any known branch of the family Mr Cubitt, 30, an information technology consultant, believed a new species could have been found, known colloquially as the Tyne petrel. But by using state-of-the-art scientific methods and an old-fashioned sleuth's nose and perseverance, he and Ms Carruthers have identified the oriental travellers.

First, recordings of the bird's call, patiently coaxed in the middle of the night on a damp beach at Whitley Bay, were compared with ones in the National Sound Archive in London in return for tapes of

birds the archive did not possess. They then created their own graphical representation of the song, a sonogram, and compared it with the sound of the real thing recorded in Japan. Finally came the big test, the DNA analysis.

Almost by accident the twitchers discovered that Nottingham University was doing such work. Obtaining a blood sample from one bird was easy, finding a control to test it against was not. Feathers from stuffed exhibits in the Natural History Museum turned out to be 80 years old and of little help. An appeal abroad brought no response until a request for feathers from live birds produced the right material.

"It is good to know that we have finally determined exactly what these birds are, although it might have been nice for it to have turned out to be Cubitt's petrel," said Mr Cubitt.

At least two more mysteries remain to be solved. Why did the birds come to Tynemouth and, more important, is there a breeding colony somewhere on the western side of the globe? Preak warm water currents full of the petrel's favourite food, plankton, might be the answer to the first, but the bird's reclusive private life could mean the second is never answered.

### The way it isn't



Next year in full (cont)

May 13: The shortlist for the Turner Prize is withdrawn when it is discovered that one of the finalists has never painted a picture. "This would give him an unfair advantage over the other contestants," the organisers explain.

May 23: Dirk Bogarde stars in a new film about a single man living abroad, haunted by his past. "It's a radical departure for me," he comments.

May 29: Lord Tebbit condemns children: "They grow out of their clothes, cost a fortune and are a drain on the economy - it's high time they grew up."

June 17: The nation rejoices at Britain's greatest triumph at Wimbledon in a decade. A Briton has

gained a place as hall-boy for the semi-final.

June 27: Martin Scorsese says he intends to bring Postman Pat to the big screen.

"I want to emphasise the side of him that has been overlooked. I see him as an angry loner, hellbent on exacting revenge on society," he says. It is announced that Robert de Niro will star in *Postman Pat: The Revenge of the Envelope* early in the new year.

July 19: A police search begins for David Mellor, the former heritage secretary, after his wife reports that she has not seen him on television for at least a fortnight.

July 28: The Archbishop of Canterbury calls for fewer practising Christians in the Church of England. "We're in danger of becoming too exclusive," he explains. "We are in need of a larger percentage of people who say they just couldn't care less."

August 5: Lord Owen holidays on the Sussex coast. Early reports indicate that as a result Eastbourne is now engaged in armed struggle with Beddell.

Source: Microport

T/30.12.92/C

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# New year fires will light the way into single European market

By ALISON ROBERTS  
ARTS REPORTER

ON NEW year's eve the British public will be urged to forget Gatt, French farmers and fish quotas and to celebrate the finale of the British EC presidency, when 1,000 beacons will be lit across the continent to mark the arrival of the single European market.

The festival of light will begin at the stroke of midnight when John Major ignites the first beacon in the City of London, starting a chain of more than 700 fires across the UK. Beacons on the continent will stretch from Tripoli in Greece to Tours in France. All of the 12 countries in the European Com-

munity are participating and in most the head of state will light the first beacon.

Although the people of Maastricht are not planning to illuminate their landmark town, there will be beacons on 30 sites in the Netherlands. The Danish, not renowned for Euro-enthusiasm, will have 16 beacons.

Norma Major will light the second UK beacon, in her home town of Huntingdon, at one minute past midnight as the European frontier posts are uprooted. The third in the UK chain will be in Edinburgh, venue of the European summit. Bonfires and beacons on poles have been built all over the country; on village greens, school

playing fields and at the top of church towers.

The beacons are the idea of Bruno Peek, who lit up the country in 1988 as a celebration of the 400th anniversary of the sighting of the Spanish Armada. In 1488 beacons were used as warnings of the approaching enemy along the southern coast of England but Mr Peek, who has been planning Beacon Europe for four years, insists that today they are symbols of unity. "Everybody is fascinated by fire. Beacons are an historical means of communication and they bring people together. My ambition is to create a worldwide chain to celebrate the millennium."

The European Arts Festival, established by Mr Major with £6 million of Treasury money, will come to an end on New Year's eve. Celebrations at the Barbican centre in London will involve music, drama and dance, with special input from European youth groups.

In spite of the continuing political differences the event has been dubbed New Europe Eve. It will include art from the European Parliament Collection, usually hung in EC buildings in Luxembourg, Brussels and Strasbourg. Twelve Stars, also called A Constellation of European Art, offers the first chance to view the 15 new British works chosen by experts for the collection.

Debate is continuing over the success of the festival. John Drummond, the director, has repeatedly expressed anger at the lack of interest from the London arts world. He said that the dearth of critical acclaim and the inevitable shadow cast by political events will discourage a repeat of the festival in other countries, although interest has been expressed by European politicians who admire the British artistic initiative.

The festival will be rounded off with a celebration of the very diversity that has been criticised. British youth groups from Lambeth, Hertfordshire and Tower Hamlets will join counterparts from East Berlin, Madrid and the

Flemish community in Antwerp to perform cabaret, Shakespeare and modern dance.

Little-known European musical works will be featured. A classical version of the Eurovision Song Contest including Charpentier's Prelude to the Te Deum, known as the Eurovision theme tune, will be performed by the European Community Baroque Orchestra at St Giles' Church, Cripplegate, opposite the Barbican.

Another of the Euro-tunes, the European Community Anthem, is taken from Beethoven's hymn to brotherly love in the finale of his Ninth Symphony. The European Community Youth Orchestra will open with the anthem in the

Barbican Hall at the arts festival's last concert. The youth orchestra will be appearing as an Ambassador of Goodwill - Europepeak used to describe a touring group that has undertaken many trips abroad in order to promote European unity.

Other Brussels-based and political groups will be involved in the celebrations to welcome the single market. The European Commission's Task Force on Human Resources will be bringing young European "street" arts groups to London and the Young European Federalists, a group to strike fear into the hearts of British Eurosceptics, will help with lighting the beacons across the continent.

Barbican Hall at the arts festival's last concert. The youth orchestra will be appearing as an Ambassador of Goodwill - Europepeak used to describe a touring group that has undertaken many trips abroad in order to promote European unity.

## 650-page guide kills hopes of an end to bureaucracy

By IAN MURRAY

THE END of border formalities at the EC's internal frontiers will do away with 50 million customs documents a year. But if you mention that to Kirk Dugard, chief executive of Kingsley Shipping in Dover, he will laugh cynically and point to a 650-page tome that was squeezed through the letterboxes of Britain's top 30,000 trading companies just before Christmas.

"They are doing away with one system and replacing it with another that is equally burdensome," he says. "The fall of the fiscal barriers is a nonsense for most companies. The authorities haven't worked out the problems at all."

Mr Dugard dislikes the new borderless regime because it has put his well-established firm of customs brokers out of business and he had to make his staff of 15 redundant just before Christmas. He hopes he can re-employ 11 of them in a new business which will help firms to compile the statistics that will now become an essential part of the process of gathering value-added tax. So far, however, only 10 per cent of his former customers have signed up for his service,

which will supply the necessary information through a computer link that his firm has established with the customs authorities. "A lot of firms are saying that they will just pay the fine for non-payment over the first year because that will be cheaper," he says. "I don't believe many companies are set up in a way to complete these forms in time anyway. There is a lot of room for error. This is all a retrograde step."

Customs and Excise officials are confident that the benefits for business from the single market will amount to nearly £450 million over five years but admit that it will cost British companies about £100 million to change their systems to comply with the new requirements before expected annual net savings of £135 million can be realised.

But it is likely that the new system is too complicated to work properly. The 650-page volume is essential reading for any company doing business within the EC worth more than £135,000 a year. Known as the Intrastat Classification Nomenclature, or ICN, it gives the new EC code number to every recognised traded



SINGLE MARKET

items from chicken livers to sheep, goats and electronic switchgear. Unless a businessman knows the correct EC number for the goods he is selling or buying, he will be unable to fill in his company's Supplementary Statistical Declaration (SSD) and will end up being fined.

The SSD in quadruplicate replaces the Single Administrative Document (SAD), which was introduced as a kind of passport for goods only four years ago to streamline border formalities.

Under the new system, a supplier will fill in an SSD that will allow goods to leave his factory without payment of VAT. On delivery, the driver presents three copies of the

form and takes one back stamped to prove delivery while the buyer keeps one copy for records and sends another to the VAT collectors.

Both companies have to keep an up-to-date record of every transaction so that within ten days of the end of each calendar month they can make a complete return of all business dealings to the VAT authorities, who will send bills to the receiving firms.

Under the old system, VAT was due as soon as an import entered the country. The authorities at Dover alone were paid an average of £7 million each day. No vehicle could leave the port until the money had been paid or a guarantee of payment was received.

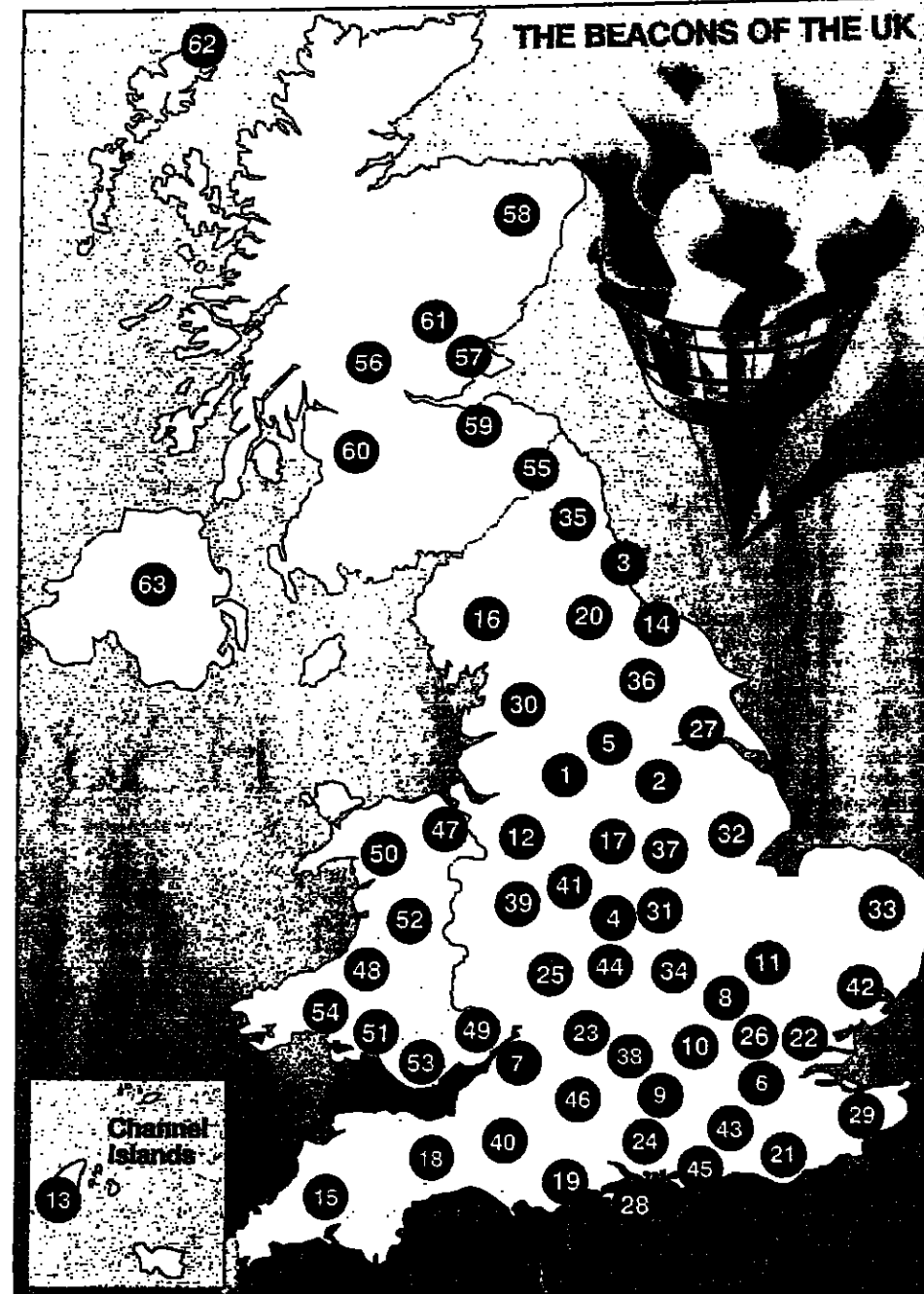
Now that the controls have gone, payment will depend on the honesty of individual companies and the efficiency of customs authorities. Derek Leach, the assistant collector in charge of freight at Dover, has no doubt which method is more efficient. "It is far more cost effective for us to do it all in one place. It is going to be far more expensive for us to have to move staff all round the country to collect and check everything."

Arrival of the market, page 19

## Where the beacons will be

Beacon locations in the UK (continued from page 1)

1. GREATER MANCHESTER  
2. SOUTH DOWNS  
3. TYNNE AND  
4. WILTSHIRE  
5. WEST YORKSHIRE  
6. LONDON  
7. AVON  
8. DEVON  
9. DEVONSHIRE  
10. DORSET  
11. CAMBS  
12. LINCS  
13. CHESHIRE  
14. CLEVELAND  
15. HUMBERSIDE  
16. NORTH YORKSHIRE  
17. DERBYSHIRE  
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## Yugoslav prime minister falls as military campaign to break Sarajevo siege intensifies

## Muslims seize brief chance to hit back

Bosnian government forces are taking advantage of temporary political and military strengths to grab back land before Serbia and Croatia can agree on a carve-up

By Roger Boyes, East Europe Correspondent

THE Bosnian Muslims are fighting hard to claw back land from the Serbs and are preparing a new year counter-offensive to break the siege of Sarajevo.

The new twist to the war is dictated by a mix of military and political factors. Poor generalship by the Serbs has allowed the Bosnian government forces to push them back against the Drina river on the Serbian frontier. These parts of eastern Bosnia were "ethnically cleansed" during the Serbian offensive last spring. But the Muslim forces have regrouped in the mountains and are launching partisan-style attacks that take village after village out of Serbian hands.

These are, however, temporary gains. The Bosnian Muslims have been helped by the overstretching of the Serbian army as it tries to defend about 70 per cent of captured Bosnian territory. The new fighting also reflects a shift in the morale of the Bosnian government forces. Western talk of military intervention and the physical presence of UN troops in Bosnia have buoyed their spirits.

A makeshift but apparently effective training programme, devised for Bosnian forces under great pressure last summer, is beginning to pay off. The ragging army of early 1992, now resembles a proper guerrilla force, more disciplined than most of the Serb units in the field. Some clandestine deliveries of small arms were also made in October and November. The guns were apparently bought with Arab and Iranian funds on the international arms market and brought into Bosnia by Croatian middlemen. None of this, however, is sufficient to tip the scales of war; it merely explains the present burst of energy.

The counter-offensive — if that is not too grand a word — is more of a political than a military event. Bosnian Muslim troops have been gathering to the south of Sarajevo and were also said yesterday to be fighting in the northern suburbs. The point is clear enough. The Bosnian government fears that Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president,

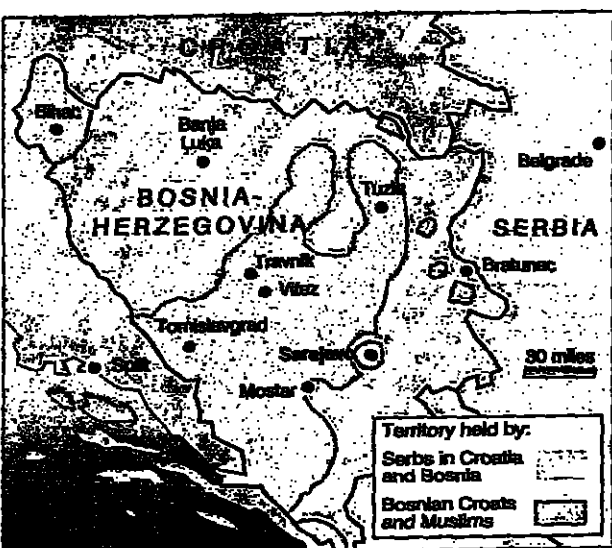
strengthened by his electoral victory, may now be ready to strike a deal with Croatia on carving up Bosnia. For the Muslims, that means they must take back territory ahead of a settlement. Above all, it means a fresh fight for Sarajevo to rescue the administrative hub of the republic.

Sarajevo remains the symbol of the old Bosnia. If it is to be partitioned according to the present distribution of forces, the Muslims will be left with a capital without an airport. The Serbs have demonstrated that they can cut off the airport road and choke the city. The Muslims cannot allow the Serbs to retain that kind of control over their capital.

Two other factors are behind the timing of the counter-offensive. First, the Bosnian Serbs have scaled down activities in the run-up to the Orthodox Christmas on January 6. Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, has been sending conflicting signals to the West, threatening revenge against UN ground troops if Serb aircraft are shot down but also offering UN monitors access to Serbian military helicopters. His point is to prevent the policing of a "no-fly" zone. The immediate effect has been to induce a probably temporary restraint among Serbian field commanders. This has spurred on the Bosnian Muslims to pounce on poorly defended positions.

The second factor is the approaching deadline of January 15, set by the Islamic Conference Organisation, which threatened to supply weapons to the Bosnian Muslims unless the West moved more decisively to end Serb aggression. It is not clear whether the decision to police the no-fly zone will satisfy the Islamic states. But if the Bosnian Muslims are in the middle of a big offensive on January 15, there will be a general reluctance to give them arms. It thus made political sense for the Bosnian government forces to begin their attack some weeks before that deadline.

Whitehall at war, page 12  
Leading article  
and letters, page 13



War games: as fighting rages in Sarajevo, children in the city imitate their elders by playing with toy guns against a backdrop of sandbags

## Vote by nationalists forces out Panic

FROM DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

BOTH houses of the Yugoslav parliament passed votes of "no confidence" in Milan Panic, the prime minister, yesterday, forcing him from power and plunging the ramp degradation into constitutional crisis.

The charismatic Yugoslav-American fell victim to a lightning nationalist coup, and was instantly replaced by his deputy, Radivoje Konic, a Montenegrin, pending the setting up of a new parliament early next year. The appointment overrode the constitutional prerogative of President Cosic to appoint the prime minister.

The Chamber of Republics voted against Mr Panic by 30 votes to five with one invalid vote, only hours after the lower house had passed a similar "no confidence" vote by 95 votes to two, with 12 abstentions. It was the first session of both houses since the December 20 elections in which Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia's ex-communist president, defeated an attempt by Mr Panic to replace him.

The votes were introduced by the ultra-nationalist Radical Party, whose leader, Vojislav Seselj, said on Monday he would try to remove Mr Panic from office. The Radicals went from one seat in the 250-seat Serbian parliament to 73, an unexpected surge of support that upset more moderate politicians.

"This electoral result is more than fatal for us," centrist opposition leader Vuk Draskovic said. "We can now see what sort of a road we face." Mr Draskovic accused Mr Seselj of starting a witch hunt since his electoral success. "There is not a single person in Serbia who means anything who has not been declared a traitor," he said.

During yesterday's parliamentary session, Mr Seselj told the lower house: "It is in the national interest that Mr



Panic: accused of being a traitor and thief

Panic leave immediately, because he has already done serious damage to state interests and is a threat to national security."

During the election campaign, Mr Seselj, whose party is widely expected to go into coalition with Mr Milosevic's Socialists in the new parliament, frequently accused Mr Panic of treason. In tabling the motion, he accused Mr Panic of embezzling state money, weakening national security, passing defence secrets to hostile Western journalists, and of calling on the United States to assist him in the campaign. "I have written proof, the letter of Mr Panic to the United States Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger, calling on him to interfere directly in our domestic affairs." He also claimed that Mr Panic had "stolen" \$150,000 (£100,000) from the state to finance his US trip.

Mr Panic, a millionaire, on frequent occasions has said that practically all of his trips on state business were financed from his own pocket. Recently his aides disclosed that he had spent almost £1.3 million of his own money since assuming the federal premiership.

## Serb forces move south to bolster creaking defences

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BRATUNAC, EASTERN BOSNIA

TANKS, armoured personnel carriers and reinforcements were last night pouring across the Drina river from Serbia to shore up the deteriorating military situation in the eastern Bosnian town of Bratunac.

The eight tanks, numerous lorry-mounted anti-aircraft guns and three buses carrying troops all bore the insignia and number plates of the Bosnian Serb army and appeared to have crossed Serbia from northern Bosnia. They follow a unit of crack troops already sent in to reinforce Bratunac from Prijedor.

Because of poor and now dangerous roads in eastern Bosnia, the reinforcements were obliged to cross through Serbia to move southwards and then cross back into Bosnia from the Serbian town of Ljubovija.

The military situation in Bratunac has deteriorated so much that Serb fears have been voiced that it could fall to Muslims in the nearby enclave of Srebrenica. But troops from Prijedor who were already in Bratunac yesterday morning said they were shocked by the state of Bratunac's defences and what awaited them when they arrived on the frontline. One said: "It was supposed to be a secret but when we got there we found the Muslims yelling across with their megaphone. 'When are the boys from up north arriving?'"

Ljubo Simic, the mayor of Bratunac, has taken to wearing uniform. Last week he sent his wife and children to the safety of Serbia and he keeps a rifle by the front door. For eight months, the Serbs of Bratunac have besieged the neighbouring Muslim enclave of Srebrenica. Now Bratunac finds itself besieged by Srebrenica, which is besieged by Serbs who, to their west, are themselves fighting Muslims on two flanks.

The boys from the north think Bratunac is a lost cause.

They also think that the disorganised locals are unlikely to dislodge the Muslims who make up the vast majority of the area's population.

On December 14, Muslim forces came down from the hills and slaughtered 63 people, mostly civilians, in two villages close to Bratunac. "Everyone saw the bodies," said Mr Simic. "We could not hide them." The gruesome video of the dead appears to show that, after being shot, some victims were backed with knives or blunt objects and one man was castrated. Thousands have since fled across the Drina to Serbia.

But the Drina bridge may yet be the undoing of Bratunac rather than its salvation. In early summer, Zoran, a Serb soldier, fought to secure Posavina in northern Bosnia.

To a great extent we were helped by the River Sava," he said. "The Croats knew that in the end they could just run back over the bridge to Cro-

atia, and they did. It looks like it's going to be the same here. The Serbs aren't fighting hard enough because they have got somewhere to run to."

While Bratunac is a crucial strategic town linking the northern Bosnian Serb territories with Serb-held eastern Herzegovina, soldiers from the north say they will not die for it if the locals will not fight for it.

Bratunac is not in imminent danger of falling but its future is not bright. For the moment, the Muslims of Srebrenica do not have enough heavy weaponry to take it. But, just as after months of siege the northern town of Bosanski Brod finally fell after mainly local Croatian forces gave up the ghost and fled across the Sava to "mother Croatia", the same might happen in Bratunac.

A woman in Ljubovija said: "Our only fear is that, when it goes, the bridge will be too narrow when they all try to run across."

## Czech and Slovak enter a state of mourning

FROM SIMON PELLER IN PRAGUE

MANY Czechs and Slovaks, even as they celebrate the end of their 74-year union tomorrow, have mixed feelings about the divorce.

With due pomp, Czechoslovakia will be cast into the history books at midnight to be replaced by separate Czech and Slovak republics of ten million and five million people respectively. Experts forecast economic problems for both states, at least in the short term, and particularly for the weaker and less developed economy of Slovakia.

"I have no reason to rejoice. I feel like a kid torn by the parents' divorce," an elderly Slovak artist said on the radio on Saturday. Opinion polls still show that slightly more than half the people in both new countries would have preferred to stay together.

Such feelings have made no difference in the planning of celebrations by politicians, who refused to allow the partition to be decided by a referendum. In Bratislava, capital of the new Slovak Republic, the blue, white and red flag of the federation will be hauled down for the last time to be replaced by the new Slovak double cross. It will be saluted with the sound of bells, the boom of guns and crowds singing the national anthem. Festivities organised by the culture ministry will continue until January 2.

The man whose campaign for Slovak autonomy led to partition, Vladimir Meciar, the Slovak prime minister, said on Sunday that the new state would be "a test of how mature our society is ... despite a modest beginning, we can be jolly and we will certainly be successful."

His government promised to subsidise the festivities to the tune of five crowns (about 12p) per head for any community wishing to hold official celebrations. In Bratislava, free rides on public transport will be provided for people attending the celebrations. In Prague, festivities will be in a more traditional new year vein. An ecumenical mass will be held in St Vitus' Cathedral and the Czech Philharmonic Orchestra will perform *My Country* by Smetana. With a president yet to be elected, Vaclav Klaus, the prime minister, will address the nation and deputies of the Czech National Council will pledge allegiance to the new state when they meet in Prague castle. Raising the new flag will have a touch of the absurd: the Czechs' new flag is identical to the Czechoslovak one. (Reuters)

## Mitterrand maps out landscape for survival

FACED with a landscape as bleak as the one which confronts President Mitterrand, lesser politicians might contemplate firesides and memoirs. An inventory of his troubles includes age (76), illness (prostate cancer), the probable electoral rout of his Socialists next year and polls showing most of his compatriots want him out fast.

The latest yesterday reported that 76 per cent think France is "badly governed". In the country's current tristesse, virtually anything can be viewed as a symptom of lost glory. Patriotic emotion, for example, is being stirred as Gallie yellow headlightes are replaced by white Euro-friendly ones on new cars.

But retirement is far from the thoughts of M. Mitterrand. His faithful retainers, such as Jack Lang, the educa-

*The doughty French president, his Socialists in disarray, is plotting new pacts and de Gaulle-like gestures to retain power, Charles Bremner writes*

tion and culture minister, depict him as serenely looking forward to his final two years in office. In recent weeks, the outlines of his strategy have become clear. The plan involves a stronger role on the world stage and an attempt to reshape the political landscape to the disadvantage of an already divided opposition. One man links the two approaches: Bernard Kouchner, the dashing health and humanitarian affairs minister.

A sort of Gallie Kirk Douglas, Dr Kouchner's thoughtless exploits in favour of "hu-

manitarian intervention" are the most visible sign of a revived French assertiveness abroad. His media-wise escapades in Somalia, Bosnia and Kurdish northern Iraq have angered the foreign and defence ministers but have set the tone for actions which have put France back into the big league after Mitterrand's stumbling attempts to head off German unification and the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Mitterrand has made it clear that if the centre-right dominates the government, as is expected after the

March elections, he will ascend to a higher plane, managing foreign affairs and defence in the tradition which de Gaulle invented.

At the same time, M. Mitterrand is working to render "cohabitation" with his opponents more palatable. He hopes to limit the electoral damage by distancing himself from his discredited old party and appointing outsiders whose images are in keeping with the Zeitgeist. The most glaring example is the ascendancy of Dr Kouchner. Not a Socialist, he has no plans to run for election — which helps make him France's most popular politician and its fourth most admired individual.

If the opposition fails to score the predicted walkover, M. Mitterrand might manage to put together a coal-

ition, appointing a centrist prime minister and bringing in the likes of Dr Kouchner and leading figures from the two popular environmentalist parties. This would be a response to the wisdom which says the old left-right division is dead and the country wants to be run by younger, "greener" hands.

M. Mitterrand is aware that the conservative leaders, Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and Jacques Chirac, are scarcely more popular than his own team and seem hell-bent on pursuing their 20-year feud. Dissidents in both opposition parties are challenging the whole idea of governing while M. Mitterrand is still president. He is said to be relishing the prospect of watching all the squabbling from his balcony at the Elysee palace.

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## Yeltsin prepares to profit from arms deal with Bush

FROM ANNE McELVOY  
IN MOSCOW

THE Start 2 agreement reached in Geneva yesterday to reduce the nuclear arsenals of America and Russia by two-thirds dispenses with the Cold war's most feared weapons — land-based missiles with multiple warheads, considered the most dangerous and destabilising class of arms.

Agreement on the text of the treaty reached by Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, and Lawrence Eagleburger, the US secretary of state, is an outcome that would have seemed an impossible dream at the height of the Cold war.

The speed with which it has been hurried through notwithstanding a plethora of "technical considerations" on what can and cannot be converted — until recently a frequent excuse to delay or abort negotiations — indicates the vast improvement in relations between Moscow and Washington during George Bush's

■ Washington has wrapped up an agreement to cut arsenals before the White House changeover, but concerns remain about Moscow's nuclear legacy

term in the White House. The rapprochement began under the Reagan and Gorbachev presidencies, but only reached its current relaxed state under Presidents Bush and Yeltsin after the fall of Soviet communism ended the ideological and strategic clashes between the two powers.

Start 2 is the climax of Mr Bush's administration and the outgoing president is particularly proud of his role in disarmament. He has good personal relations with Mr Yeltsin, although the personal touch is not as difficult as it used to be. The Russian leader has a warm smile for any leader who distracts him from his domestic troubles these days. Mr Bush also knows the minutiae of Start, having signed the first part of the

agreement in the summer. Senators and arms control experts have been urging him to conclude the deal before leaving office as it would take Bill Clinton, the president-elect, and his incoming administration several months to master the details.

With a continuation of Russia's liberal foreign policy by no means guaranteed in the changeable climate of today's Russia, Washington considers it wise to conclude it now.

President Yeltsin is keen on a summit to show he is on top of policy initiatives at home and dispel doubts about his authority created in the last month, when it appeared that he was being swept along by forces outside his control at the Congress of People's Deputies.

This summit will give him the chance to emphasise that, despite Russia's troubles, it is still a leading player on the world stage. The nationalist right scorned his recent meetings with John Major and Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, but most Russians are still impressed by the sight of their leader meeting the US president. The question remains where the summit should be.

Mr Yeltsin accelerated the Geneva meeting in his unorthodox style, taking the Americans by surprise by announcing in China that he was ready for a summit and saying at the weekend that it would be held in Sochi on the Black Sea coast on January 2-3 before the US negotiators had agreed at all.

A Sochi summit would have allowed President Yeltsin to indulge in some image-booster on home soil, but Mr Bush appears to have taken the view that he has enough exotic destinations under his belt for one year and is not prepared



Clinching a deal: Andrei Kozyrev, the Russian foreign minister, with Lawrence Eagleburger in Geneva yesterday

to have the signing turn into a Yeltsin road show. He has suggested Paris or Geneva.

Despite the scope of the treaty, the West's strategists will continue to sound a warning note on the fate of the

Soviet nuclear legacy. Ukraine is no longer considered realistic, and his successor, despite his commitment to arms cuts on the international stage, tends to emphasise at home that Russia's future as a great power depends on its maintenance of a nuclear force.

The collapse of the Soviet Union and the disarray which followed in the armed forces spurred both sides towards reductions, but the Russian military, flanked by the growing ranks of nationalists in politics, has succeeded in rehabilitating the idea of a nuclear deterrent. Their reasoning is that it is a vast waste of knowledge and superiority towards less developed and potentially

troublesome neighbours to give up the nuclear defence, the most capable part of the armed forces.

In the letters column of *Krasnaya Zvezda* newspaper, which has become the last forum for indignant military hardliners, the progress of Start has been monitored with concern. One correspondent accuses the government of "burying alive what is left of our national heritage".

Another adds: "As for the Americans, they have a plot in mind to buy for a few pennies our unique technology and erase from people's memories Russia's glory, the glory of a great nuclear and space power."

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## Clinton chooses holiday role as Renaissance man

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

A PRESIDENTIAL campaign fought, an election won, the lofty concerns of assembling a cabinet over: Bill Clinton might have taken a well-deserved new year holiday in the peaceful mountains of Montana or the lively casinos of Las Vegas. Instead, the Clintons will this week be found doing what they like best — "policy-wonk", or in other words, discussing weighty national problems.

The Clintons are heading off to Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, this morning to join 500 other earnest baby-boomers, all well-known in the professions, business, politics and sport. They will mark the new year with a five-day conference consisting of 221 seminars — in which every-thing from famine in Africa to the intricacies of American health policy will be debated.

The annual Renaissance weekend at Hilton Head, the brain-child of a failed South Carolina politician, is not for the faint-hearted nor those who have failed to read public policy books such as *Retreating Government*, a particular favourite of Mr Clinton's, or *Earth in the Balance* by Al Gore, the vice-president-elect. "It's a kind of group therapy for moderate baby-boomers," remarked David Keene, a Republican strategist.

It is also an important forum for "networking", or making contacts. The week-ends have been going for 11 years and are a Democrat networker's dream. Mr Clinton has participated in eight of them and they have supplied several paid-up members of the "Friends of Bill", who helped get the Arkansas governor elected to the White House

and now are filling the ranks of government. Zoe Baird, Mr Clinton's nominee for the post of attorney-general, first met the president-elect at one of these so-called annual retreats. Hazel O'Leary, the energy secretary-designate, was recommended for a position in government by a prominent Renaissance participant.

"We have three criteria for our guests," said Philip Lader, the Renaissance weekend founder. "They must be individuals with a renaissance spirit; people with broad-gauged interests. They must be individuals who demonstrate leadership on a national

scale. And they must be folks who enjoy a very personal gathering." According to Mr Lader, "Mr Clinton asks penetrating questions on everything from art to economics, from religion to history".

The informal four-day conference also includes beach walks, tennis games and golf matches. Children accompanying their parents, such as

the Clintons' 12-year-old daughter, will have their own seminars. Chelsea Clinton is down to join in with a seminar entitled *Flash: A Snapshot of the Most Vivid Moment of My Life*. Her mother will be a panelist in a programme called *Conversations with Some Challenging Women*.

Strangely, Charles Robb, a senator who is under federal investigation for the alleged wire-tapping of a political rival, will be talking in a discussion entitled *Something That's Been Bugging Me Lately*.

All newcomers to the retreat are given a "helpful hints" guide to the retreat, which includes answers to questions such as: "Can I distribute copies of my doctoral dissertation?"

Among the participants this year are Edwin Moses, the athlete; Ken Adelman, a former arms control negotiator; Art Buchwald, the newspaper columnist; and Peggy Noonan, a speech-writer in the Reagan administration. Richard Schifter, who was an assistant Secretary of State in a series of Republican administrations, recalled the way in which Mr Clinton used the weekend to make friends and influence people. "My first visit was in 1990," he told *The Wall Street Journal* yesterday. "I gave a little talk [on Iraq], saying there was no alternative to going forward with Desert Storm. Some people took exception. But Clinton came forward, and in front of the whole group said he shared my view... I told him if he ever ran for president, and I wasn't in government, I'd work for him. I left government in early 1992, and he called me right away."



Chelsea Clinton: will join children's seminars

## 'Wonk' word comes of age as the baby-boomers learn to talk

Philip Howard  
traces the latest  
vogue word to its  
campus birth in  
the Sixties

WONK is as much a creation of the 1960s as the earnest baby-boomers meeting for their "Renaissance weekend" marathon gabfest designed for "policy wonks". Its use declares as clearly as a curriculum vitae that the user is an American college graduate in his or her forties or fifties. Slang dates a person as precisely and cruelly as rings date a tree.

The word's nearest equivalents in British English are "weird", "swot", "nerd" and "freak", though none is exact. It is a near-synonym, used pejoratively, for a clever idiot.

The first recorded use of the word is in the American magazine *Sports Illustrated* in 1962, which felt it necessary to explain a wonk was sometimes called a "turkey" or a "lunch" (meaning "out to lunch" or "batty"), and roughly corresponded to the "meatball" of the previous decade.

The first use of the word recorded in imaginative literature is in Erich Segal's *Love Story* (1970): "Who could

Jenny be talking to that was worth appropriating moments set aside for a date with me? Some musical wonk?"

Segal is a good authority on American college slang. At the time he was writing *Love Story*, he was a professor of classics at Yale with a speciality in ancient comedy but, like all classical scholars, an interest in linguistics.

During the 1970s, wonk came into wide use in the United States to deride an excessively studious student. Amy Berman, of the Harvard class of 1979, put forward the fanciful suggestion that wonk is a retrograde of "know". Like many folk etymologies, this one is too neat to be true. John Ayto and John Simp-

son, editors of *The Oxford Dictionary of Modern Slang* published this autumn, suggest without much conviction that it was perhaps "from wonky adjective, unsteady, unsound". This is the right etymology for the wrong sense of the word.

In the 1920s, "wonk", probably from "wonky", was Royal Navy slang for a useless sailor, or a young naval cadet who had not yet learned the elements of his job.

Other meanings of "wonk" include the Australian slang for a white person, used as pejoratively as "boong" is used to denote an Aboriginal. It has also been used in Australia to describe an effeminate or homosexual male.

But for the president-elect and his fellow wonks in session and at play for the week of the turning year at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina, the word is a friendly flag signalling that they are good guys and gals — of a certain age.

سكنا من لاصيل



# American anxieties in Africa and Balkans tempt Saddam



Bush is determined to enforce exclusion area

FROM JAMIE DETTMER  
IN WASHINGTON

AS AN American aircraft carrier headed towards the Gulf yesterday to reinforce Western forces policing the "no-fly" zone over southern Iraq, the Pentagon disclosed that Baghdad's fighters had crossed the 32nd parallel more than once on Monday but escaped north of the air exclusion area before they could be intercepted.

In its rush to build up US forces in the area, the Bush administration took the unusual step of sending two squadrons of navy warplanes to Saudi Arabia ahead of their mother ship, the aircraft carrier USS *Kitty Hawk*, which is

**President Bush's assertion of American power has the backing of Bill Clinton, who will inherit a policy of US intervention from Iraq to Somalia and possibly Serbia**

due to arrive in northern Gulf coastal waters early on Friday. The US Air Force is also sending additional KC10 tanker aircraft and an extra RC135 surveillance plane to Saudi Arabia.

The redeployment of USS *Kitty Hawk* from off the Horn of Africa, where it was supporting American forces operating in Somalia, is clearly meant to send a signal to President Saddam Hussein of the Bush administration's

determination to maintain a rigidly enforced no-fly zone over southern Iraq. The weekend violations by Iraq and its continuing aggressive behaviour now is being seen in Washington as an attempt by Saddam to exploit the presidential transition period in America. The Bush administration also suspects that Saddam is trying to discover whether the Pentagon is able to police the southern Iraq no-fly zone fully while its atten-

tions are focused on Somalia and the Balkans.

According to defence sources in Washington, Iraqi jets started to patrol very close to the 32nd parallel, which marks the boundary of the no-fly zone, within hours of American warplanes shooting down an Iraqi MIG25 fighter on Sunday. By Monday, Baghdad's planes were violating the air exclusion zone, entering and leaving it before American combat aircraft arrived. Some defence academics in Washington speculated that Saddam had decided to challenge the West now because he would have noticed the recent gradual reduction of American aircraft in the Gulf.

"The Iraqi Air Force did conduct additional sorties across the 32nd line," said Lieutenant Colonel Howard Carter, a spokesman for US forces in the Gulf. He said that their progress had been monitored and that American aircraft had been ordered to intercept. "The Iraqis then retreated north out of the exclusion zone. There weren't any shots fired." The Pentagon would not say how many violations had been recorded on Monday, or whether there were any incursions into the zone yesterday.

The White House has kept Bill Clinton, the president-elect, informed of developments in the Gulf. Mr Clinton is understood to sup-

port the administration's current actions in the Gulf. He has also been consulted over US relief operations in Somalia and the White House's increasingly tough stance towards the Serbs, a policy he himself advocated during the presidential election campaign. Mr Bush's last-minute use of American global power to resolve regional conflicts is being trumpeted by US conservatives. Mr Clinton has raised no objections to Mr Bush's assertive foreign policy in the dying days of the Republican administration. Mr Clinton and his team seem to be in tune with the so-called humanitarian interventions being undertaken to relieve famine in East Africa

and protect the Kurds and Shia Muslims in Iraq.

Only muted public criticism has been raised of this policy. Henry Kissinger recently cautioned that American military capability was being over-stretched, but newspaper editorials and academics in Democratic and Republican think-tanks have been generally supportive. Patrick Buchanan, Mr Bush's rival for the Republican presidential nomination earlier this year, and his America First supporters have largely kept quiet about foreign policy, having shifted their attentions to the post-election struggle within the Republican party.

Leading article, page 13

## Collor quits Brazilian presidency as Senate starts corruption trial

FROM MAC MARGOLIS IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THE impeached Brazilian president, Fernando Collor de Mello, suddenly resigned yesterday, just as the Senate was preparing to eject him from office for corruption.

Senhor Collor, suspended by Congress three months ago, was the first Brazilian president this century to be deposed without bloodshed or a military coup. In a move that surprised even his most ardent allies, he announced his resignation in a handwritten, five-

line letter, read aloud at 9:30am to the Senate by his lawyer, José Moura Rocha.

In a hurried ceremony, Itamar Franco, acting president since Senhor Collor's impeachment in September, was sworn into office before legislators and a few diplomats and clergymen. The legislative assembly hall exploded in applause and spectators in the gallery sang the national anthem.

The resignation upstaged

the Senate trial, where Senhor Collor was almost certain to be condemned and removed from office for pocketing millions in a government bribery scheme run by his former campaign treasurer, Paulo Cesar Farias.

Rumours swept Brasília, the capital, yesterday that Senhor Collor would fly to Paris, where he keeps an apartment bought by friends of Senhor Farias. Though Senhor Collor also faces criminal charges that could lead to a jail sentence, Mauricio Correa, minister of justice, said that no law prohibited him from leaving Brazil. Senhor Farias left last week, flying his private Lear jet to Spain.

Senhor Collor's resignation aroused surprise in the Senate, where minutes before his leader, Mauro Benevides, had signalled the start of the trial. The first witness for the defence, Francisco Gros, former central bank president, was beginning to testify when attorney Senhor Moura Rocha interrupted him to read the resignation letter. Since the first charges surfaced in May until just a few hours before the trial, Senhor Collor had denied all charges and told reporters there was a "zero degree" chance of quitting office. Sigmaringa Sebas, a federal deputy, called the resignation cowardice. "It was designed as one last drama for the nation."

The Senate was convened late yesterday to decide whether to suspend the proceedings or to try Senhor Collor in *absentia* for breaching his duties as president by taking part in Senhor Farias's big corruption ring. If found guilty in the Senate, Senhor Collor loses the right to run for office or hold any public post for the next eight years. He also faces a possible criminal indictment for his part in a bribery scheme that netted the president and his friends at least £21 million.



Collor: a five-line letter causes one last surprise

### MAN IN THE NEWS

## Robin Hood who kept the cash

BY MAC MARGOLIS

FROM his swift rise into Brazilian politics in the late 1980s to his resignation from the presidency yesterday, Fernando Collor de Mello was never short of surprises.

He was Latin America's political phenomenon in 1989, the runaway victor in the country's first direct presidential elections in three decades. Young, energetic and a skilled performer on television, he took Brasília by storm and ruled the same way. Hardly had he entered the Planalto palace in 1990 when he issued a draconian anti-inflation programme, confiscating £65 billion in bank assets.

Playing the role of a Brazilian Robin Hood, he fought the captains of the cartel-ridden economy, the class that had supported him, and promised to clothe the "shirtless and the shoeless," the poorest of the Brazilian poor.

He gloried in the adoring crowds, shirtless rolled halfway up his arms, growing hoarse from his impromptu speeches. He vowed to end the corruption that had become routine in Brazil.

But then it all came undone. His brother, Pedro, went public with a corruption scandal. The president fought back but he could not shake off the charges that he had condoned and even profited from a giant scheme of influence-peddling and graft, organised by his former campaign treasurer.

The press and the congress widened their investi-

gations and found some damning evidence. Brasília under Senhor Collor was rotten with pilfering and power brokering behind the scenes. The president himself had pocketed some of the spoils — more than £4 million ranging from repairs to his lakefront mansion to hair styling for the first lady.

The man who entered the stage as a Brazilian Robin Hood exits now in the role of a Brazilian Sheriff of Nottingham. But even after his impeachment in September, reduced to half-pay and a skeleton staff, he maintained the manner of a head of state. Dressed in Italian suits and smoking 12 in. Cuban cigars, he carried on business in his sumptuous mansion, rejecting all suggestions that he resign. Having finally run out of time and stratagems, Senhor Collor amazed even his inner circle of loyalists yesterday when, 20 minutes into the Senate trial, his lawyer read a handwritten letter of resignation.

Now it is up to the 81 Brazilian senators to decide whether Senhor Collor's resignation spares him the heavy penalty of impeachment and the loss of his right to compete for or hold public office for the next eight years.

If the legislators are lenient Senhor Collor may still have some surprises left. In a country where tolerance runs deeper than rancour, unloved leaders can make startling comebacks, and today's scandal could again become a Robin Hood.



Seeds of hope: an elderly Somali shows his joy at returning home to Hoobishoole village from a Baidoa displacement camp. He and a hundred families, resettled with aid agency help, are to replant their fields with donated grain

## Somali aid workers shot dead

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

GUNMEN have shot dead five Somalis working for international relief agencies in Mogadishu, aid workers said yesterday. They said that the killings on Monday and other shootings pointed to increasing tension in the Somali capital, where President Bush will arrive tomorrow to visit American troops.

Four of the dead were in a bus used by the International Committee of the Red Cross to take locally hired staff in south Mogadishu to work. "The bus was stopped and a party started shooting," said Horst Hamburg, of the ICRC. The gunmen fled. Care, the international agency, said one of its local security guards was killed when bandits hijacked an agency car at the "green line" dividing Mogadishu.

A Somali clan massacred more than 100 religious leaders, business executives and other prominent residents of Kismayu, all of the Harri clan, on the eve of the US troops landing in Mogadishu. The *New York Times* reported yesterday. The paper said people were hunted door-to-door and killed during three nights by followers of Colonel Omar Jess, the Ogadeni clan leader.

## Moi blames West for foisting divisive democracy on Kenya

FROM SAM KILEY IN NAIROBI

PRESIDENT Moi of Kenya yesterday delivered a bitter attack on Western powers for forcing the country into multiparty democracy prematurely as millions of voters turned out in the first free elections for a generation.

After voting in his own constituency, where he was the only candidate, Mr Moi declared he had been "mistreated" by the foreign correspondents and the Western world who, he said, purported to be fighting for democracy "when in fact they have been fighting directly against me".

Opposition leaders and international observers have criticised the electoral process in almost every area from voter registration to the nomination of candidates. Many polling stations in opposition strongholds opened late and many others were handicapped by a lack of stationary or stamps to authenticate ballot papers. In the Amagoro constituency, near the Ugandan border, a returning officer was reported to have vanished with the filled ballot boxes.

Mr Moi is expected to win the presidential elections and his party, the Kenya African National Union (Kanu), to take the largest number of the

188 parliamentary seats. His comments yesterday were immediately interpreted by foreign diplomats as a rebuff to further criticism over his government's handling of the elections. Last year, Western governments stopped aid to Kenya worth \$40 million (£26 million) a month to try to drive Mr Moi into accepting political pluralism. Last December, he reluctantly agreed to allow opposition parties to form but said the move would lead to tribalism and violence.

The elections could have been an opportunity for Mr Moi to put Kenya's house in order after decades of institutional corruption, human rights abuses and political murders. But yesterday this looked an unlikely prospect.

"The negative aspect of this election is that tribalism has now become a factor. That will not help to develop this nation. I warned against it from the beginning," said Mr Moi in his home town of Kabarnet in the Rift Valley.

A thousand people have been killed in political and tribal violence since the advent of multiparty politics, including 30 in Mr Moi's constituency, Kanu has been unopposed in 17 constituencies

and in at least 22 others opposition candidates have switched their allegiance to Mr Moi, allegedly for bribes of up to \$20,000.

The atmosphere was generally calm outside polling stations except where they opened late. Many opposition strongholds, including the Bondo constituency, where Oginga Odinga, of the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Kenya, is expected to win, delayed opening by up to four hours. In Kangema constituency, 100 miles north of Nairobi, which has been the scene of violent clashes between opposition supporters and pro-Kanu cadres, hundreds queued from the early hours to cast votes which may be ruled invalid as stamps to certify ballots did not arrive and others swiftly wore out.

Kenneth Matiba, the leader of the other faction of the tribal split opposition, the Forum for the Restoration of Democracy-Asili (Original), and Mr Odinga have said victory for Mr Moi would mean the elections were rigged and this would lead to civil war or "widespread violence".

Photograph, page 16

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Orchestra retains ban on Wagner

Jerusalem: The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra has decided it will not under any circumstances play Richard Wagner's music, which still haunts Holocaust survivors.

"The operative decision is that it will not be played," a spokeswoman said. The decision to continue a 54-year ban on Wagner's music was made after a survey of subscribers showed that 30 per cent opposed hearing it. The orchestra's public council began the survey a year ago, after Daniel Barenboim, the conductor, said that Wagner's works, Hitler's favourites, were too important to neglect. Barenboim then guest-conducted an "open rehearsal" of the works for invited guests.

The 19th-century composer's anti-Semitic writings were admired by Hitler, who made him posthumous *Führer* of music. (Reuters)

## China hits back

Peking: China retaliated against France for selling fighter jets to Taiwan by ordering the city of Canton to block French firms from an underground railway project, worth \$673 million, and to close a French economic promotion bureau. (AFP)

## Talks progress

Durban: Officials of the African National Congress and the Inkatha Freedom Party met in a second attempt to arrange a peace summit between Nelson Mandela and Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi. A spokesman said progress had been made. (Reuters)

## Afghans return

Peshawar: The United Nations said that 1.5 million of the 3.2 million Afghan refugees in Pakistan had returned to their homeland since the collapse of the Kabul communist regime in April. At that rate, the rest could be home by the end of 1993. (AP)

## Cargo enquiry

Sidra: The cargo of a Syria-bound ship that arrived a week ago is being examined by experts for suspected Saudi missile parts. The components that are suspected of being on board can double the weapon's range. The final destination is unknown. (AP)

## Deng chosen

Deng Xiaoping, 88, the veteran Chinese statesman, was named by the *Financial Times* as its 1992 man of the year for his free-market reforms. The runner-up was Bill Clinton, the American president-elect.

## UN envoy finds Lebanon in no mood for deal on deportees

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN JERUSALEM

JAMES Jonah, the luckless United Nations envoy attempting to end the plight of 415 stranded Palestinian deportees, was told by the Lebanese prime minister yesterday that he was "wasting his time" when he tried to broker a compromise between Israel and Lebanon.

After Israel appeared to soften its position and offered to allow a one-off relief convoy to reach the trapped men — on condition that Lebanon reciprocated — the Lebanese government adamantly refused to take any responsibility for the fate of the beleaguered Palestinians.

Speaking just before he held talks with the UN envoy, Rafik Hariri, the Lebanese prime minister, insisted that Israel alone was responsible for providing food and medicine to

the Palestinians, who were expelled from the Israeli occupied territories for being alleged members of Hamas, the banned Islamic Resistance Movement, and Islamic Jihad. "He is wasting his time," said Mr Hariri. "It's a wasted trip."

President Hrawi of Lebanon was equally forthright when he forbade the UN envoy to visit the Palestinians in their snowswept, makeshift refugee camp at Marj az-Zuhur. "Lebanon does not bear any responsibility and will not allow any assistance through its territory and would not allow Mr Jonah to visit the deportees," he said after a 30-minute meeting with the UN diplomat.

Mr Jonah, who declined to comment on his apparently abortive mission in Beirut, will

hold a second round of talks in Jerusalem today with Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, and Shimon Peres, the foreign minister. He will report back to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general.

Although the Israeli leaders are not expected to alter fundamentally their tough position over the detainees, there are signs that the Labour-led government is eager to end the stalemate. Israel's latest conditional offer to allow humanitarian aid to reach the men was partly motivated by the knowledge that, if Mr Jonah leaves the Middle East empty-handed, there may be pressure at the UN for a follow-up security council resolution. This could be even harsher in its condemnation than resolution 799, which calls on Israel

to take the deportees back. "We hope that once the humanitarian problem has been alleviated, we can, through Mr Jonah, find a solution to the departure of the expelled persons from Lebanon to third countries," said Eviatar Manor, the Israeli foreign ministry spokesman.

Mr Rabin's government is also growing increasingly sensitive to the adverse publicity abroad caused by the expulsion of the Palestinian activists, who were dumped across the border two weeks ago after a series of fatal attacks by Hamas gunmen against Israeli soldiers.

Although Israeli officials are adamant that Mr Rabin will not reverse his expulsion decision, the government has been showing greater flexibility over the matter, and on Mon-

day even admitted that ten of the deportees were expelled by mistake and would be allowed back into the occupied territories.

Government sources have also hinted that, if the remaining deportees appeal against their expulsion orders within the next 60 days, about 10 per cent could win their cases.

However, it is not clear at this stage whether the deportees will agree to a compromise. Bassam Sayuri, 16, who was accidentally expelled from his home town on the West Bank, said: "I am very happy that I may be going back, but my happiness would be complete if the whole camp could go back with me."

Abdul-Aziz Rantisi, the camp's designated spokesman, said: "We are not going to force anyone to return. If

they want to go home, they are free to do so. If they choose to stay with us to demonstrate solidarity with the cause, they are more than welcome."

□ **Troops deployed:** Around 1,500 soldiers of the Lebanese army in tanks, armoured personnel carriers and lorries encircled Beirut's southern suburbs yesterday in a bid to restrict the activities of Hezbollah (the Party of God) which is based in the area (Ali Jaber writes).

The troops took over the airport road and the Beir Abed neighbourhood, where Hezbollah has its headquarters, and deployed along the former green line in the central sector of Beirut. The deployment was backed by Syrian soldiers who manned joint checkpoints with the Lebanese troops.

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# A year of living beautifully



David Emanuel: will design a new body in the gym



Youth worship: from left, Dame Barbara, Lizzie Webb and Jilly Cooper will engage in a battle to thwart the ravages of time but to Desmond Wilcox looks are "utterly unimportant"



**SUSAN HAMPSHIRE**, actress: I think I gave up last year after *Noël & Gertie* ended. I thought 'that's it'. I tried so hard to get slim for the show — I had to make a huge effort and lost about a stone. But in my heart now I'm not really chasing what I once was. In a way, at my age [50], the quicker one looks older the quicker one moves on to the next stage of parts.

**JILLY COOPER**, writer: It would take a book to tell you what I want to do in 1993 to improve my looks. I've just finished one — *The Man Who*

*Made Husbands Jealous* — and while I was creating this gorgeous man I just sat and spread. I've put on a lot of weight again and immediately after Christmas I want to lose a stone — but only off my bottom, to de-pear-ise myself. I'd also like to make my face less red — get some of my veins fixed — and I might even get the gap in my teeth fixed. Like everything else, it seems to

have been getting bigger as I've got older.

**DAVID EMANUEL**, fashion designer: I promised myself last year to enrol in a gym and never did it so I seriously have to do that this year, as I need to keep my weight down.

**LIZZIE WEBB**, television exercise expert: I shall endeavour not to frown. It's a bad habit I have as I stare intently into space or am buried deep

in thought, and the furrowed brow is beginning to leave its mark. I shall keep smiling at all times instead.

**KATIE BOYLE** (Lady Saunders), broadcaster: I shall try to keep my mouth shut a bit more so that every time I have a photograph taken I don't have it open. At the party Peter [her husband, Sir Peter Saunders, the impresario] held at the Savoy last

month for the fortieth anniversary of *The Mousetrap*, every picture that was taken of me with the prime minister and Norma Major showed me with my mouth wide open.

**BARONESS DENTON**, minister for consumer affairs at the trade and industry department: I'll try to ensure that my beautiful thoughts don't include chocolate and cheese, and will try to draw the line at working until I am rather than 2am.

**LORD ARCHER OF WESTON-SUPER-MARE**, writer: I can't believe there are any ointments or potions that can help me at this late date.

**NANETTE NEWMAN**, actress: I intend not to think about my looks too much, as everybody is becoming obsessed, and I intend not to read what other people are doing about their looks in the new year.

**DAME BARBARA CARTLAND**, writer: I shall be taking Flame, to make me grow younger and younger. It's wonderful stuff and it is named after a goddess who, when she grew old, walked through a 'blue flame' and was rejuvenated so that she lived young and beautiful for ever. I've been taking it for four months and any lines I had have been disappearing. It contains calcium combined with boron and vitamin D, and I can feel my bones getting stronger daily.

**HELENA BONHAM-CARTER**, actress: I should stop smoking, which would definitely improve my teeth, which are getting stained from it. I smoke about 15 a day, particularly in company, and know I should stop. But I'm not sure I've actually resolved to do so.

**BARRY NORMAN**, writer and broadcaster: I'll stop popping into the fridge for inspiration when I'm writing. Inside me there's a fat man trying to get out.

**DESMOND MORRIS**, anthropologist and author: I'll have to lose two stone in weight, because I put on a stone every time I write a book and I've written two this year. I shall take it off by a combination of swimming and eating less food — I've been enjoying my food too much in 1992. But as I'm making a television series next year, *The Naked Eye*, for BBC1, I shall probably take off a stone while doing that, since television helps to take weight off the way writing helps to put it on.

**ISABEL GOLDSMITH**, hotelier and socialite: I have a long list but at the top is a regular exercise programme. I try to get some aerobic exercise regularly when I am in Mexico, and have just put in a gym in my hotel there, Las Alamos, which has made it so much easier. But when I'm in England I get so lazy — and over Christmas I've been eating too much. Still, I'm skiing this week, which should help.

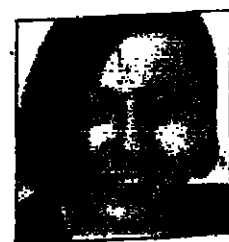
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## Do as I say, not as I do



SARAH MOWER

Here's Nicky Clarke, perhaps London's most fashionable hairdresser, admonishing his client Paula Yates: "Hair is more glamorous now Paula. You do have to make an effort, you know."

Ms Yates has hidden her hair under an outrageous Rasta cap. But just look at Mr Clarke, as he speaks it is almost impossible to see his face for the long, red-gold locks that are exploding over his shoulders and into his eyes like the contents of a ruptured mattress.

I enjoyed this cameo, from a recent edition of the television show *01*, as yet another piquant example of a phenomenon of the beautification trades that has somehow slipped by unremarked. It is a kind of fashion world status secret, but I shall risk my reputation by speaking it here: the truth is that top hairdressers don't have their hair done, lots of top make-up artists don't wear make-up and some of the world's most high profile fashion designers seem to wear the same clothes year in, year out.

Thus Giorgio Armani is never seen in anything other than a navy cashmere sweater and navy chinos. Ralph Lauren wears his jeans and cowboy boots everywhere — even to black tie affairs and Jean Muir and Sonia Rykiel always seem to be wearing the same outfits, always in navy blue. When I interviewed Mary Greenwell, one of the most admired make-up artists of her generation, she confessed she had only recently started wearing a little foundation and lipstick as a reluctant concession to nearing 40.

When I enquired of his PR why Mr Armani always seems to wear the same thing, she replied, quick as a knife, "Well, I suppose people who work in chocolate factories do not eat much chocolate. It's the same in fashion, we have it around us too much to want to dress up all the time."

Mr Armani himself says these are his working clothes, easy to wear when he is on his knees pinning hemlines all day. He, like many other male designers, has become

inordinately attached to the simple clothes he wears day in day out. Part of it is that designers like the down to earth, artisan touch it gives. Part of it is that they refuse to compromise their comfort (a principle not always applied to dressing their female customers, it will be noted).

Yet logic and practicality cannot explain everything about the way these system-makers choose to present themselves. The most glorious contradiction in our business is that there exists an invisible demarcation line above which the rules of mortal fashion no longer apply. At its highest altitude on fashion Olympus, the gods are allowed to hand down their seasonal dictates without themselves conforming to them in any way.

Indeed, the unchanging appearance of the fashion gods — even the unkemptness of some — marks them out as serious, artistic and authoritative. In other words, in a category as far removed as possible from the little people who make fools of themselves by buying, wearing and discarding too much fashion.

Karl Lagerfeld — he of the unchanging grey ponytail and fan — is one who acknowledges the insidious danger in all this. If all consumers decided to dress like designers, do their hair like London's top stylists and make-up their faces like Mary Greenwell — disaster. As an agent of constant change Mr Lagerfeld declares, "We need fashion, not style." Too true. Once someone rises above seasonal trends because of their age, or because of not caring — or indeed because of having at last acquired confidence in their own individuality — they are lost to the system.

The truth is that the yuppies who made the fashion boom of the 1980s have entered this phase already. The hope among all designers is in the new generation — which is why the collections have turned so relentlessly young recently. What remains to be seen is whether these fashion innocents turn out to be the same as their predecessors, prepared to do as the fashion gods say, not as they do.

'If we all dressed like designers — disaster'

## What one thing will you do in the coming year to improve your looks? Victoria McKee hears the views of some famous faces

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# Love and sects on the streets

The Central London Church of Christ is befriending the homeless in London. But is that all it is doing? Paul Barker reports

Red-haired and red-bearded, John Partington is standing in the freezing cold, talking to a wild Irishman. Brendan is one of the Cardboard City dwellers, here in the so-called Bull Ring, beside Waterloo Bridge in London. The audience from the Nutcracker at the Festival Hall has just finished surging through this sunken subway system, on its way to the train home to Surrey. Only the sleepers-out and the charity workers are left.

Mr Partington is a senior member of the Central London Church of Christ (technically, he is "an elder in training"). He is here with a short, solidly built Jamaican, also called John, and also from the Church of Christ, who is holding a large plastic bag of clothes, while Brendan goes on about how much he needs a cigarette. It can be hard, doing good, down here in the Bull Ring.

The Central London Church of Christ is under attack again. An article in *The Big Issue*, the newspaper of the London homeless, pitched into the church earlier this month. Media follow-ups sounded further alarms.

"They're up there with the Scientologists and the Moonies," says Maggie Fielden, of the Evangelical Alliance. "We've had a lot of the homeless expressing concern," says Lucy Johnston, the news editor of *The Big Issue*. What about?

In January the church begins a London homeless project. "We won't just throw food at people," Mr Partington says. "The idea is to wean people off the streets and into the church's 'community houses' where several members of the church already live. There may also be separate emergency hostels. The avowed model is a Leeds scheme, called Nightstop, run by Barnardo's. So far, you might think, so good. But Barnardo's wrote to *The Big Issue* to dissociate itself from this new "Nightstop" scheme. The church's many enemies among other Christian churches think the only aim is to make converts.

The church is always described as one of the fastest-growing in Britain. But it depends what you take as a base. There are about 1,300 adherents in London, with about 400 in the Manchester and Birmingham Churches of Christ and elsewhere. Perhaps half are students. Many are black. The church was founded in 1979 by Kip McKean, who belonged to the Crossroads Church of Christ in Gainesville, Florida. But then, in the entrepreneurial spirit of American religion, set up on his own, in Boston. From there, in 1982, missionaries came to London. Mr Partington heard about it soon after this.

He is from Wigan and a builder

by trade. In his jeans and leather jacket, looking across at Cardboard City, he still stands like a man keeping an eye on a size. He was brought up in a quite different "Church of Christ", of which his father was an elder. The world of small sects is confusing to an outsider. There have been congregations called Church of Christ in England since the 17th century, splitting off and re-forming, and detesting one another. "Any church can die, or drift, or develop," Mr Partington says. "It was not a decision made lightly," but he and his wife came south and swapped churches.

The fashion now is to call such churches "cults". As Professor Eileen Barker points out, in her authoritative *New Religious Movements*, published with Home Office funding, one turning point in public opinion was the Jonestown massacre, in Guyana, in 1978. Hundreds of adherents of the People's Temple sect committed suicide, or were killed, en masse. But in 1968, the British government had already put restrictions on American

Scientologists coming to Britain (a policy dropped, after an official enquiry, in 1980).

"We have here, however, the makings of a panic. Largely because of its aggressive recruiting, the Central London Church of Christ (or CLCOC) and its offshoots have been banned by the student union at the London School of Economics and other colleges. Anxious parents worried that their children are dropping out of their studies, make telephone calls to inform, the information and research body that Professor Barker has founded at the LSE, or else to bodies which are specifically "anti-cultist" such as the Cult Information Centre, or Family Action Information and Rescue (FAIR).

No one denies that the church is very demanding. In many American-based sects, the evangelism has analogies with pyramid selling, and the belief systems contain hints of science fiction. In this church, you become a Christian through total baptism, and this can take place within a week of first contact. You may have been approached by "tubing" or "blitzing" — that is, just going up to everyone at a Tube station, or in the street. Once enticed to a church function, you will be "love-bombed" (that is, overwhelmed by affection). You will be encouraged to live in a community flat. There are many compulsory Bible reading classes and services. Every church member is expected to evangelise, to give money (perhaps by tithing) to the church, and to come under the very watchful eye of a more senior member, or "disciple". Fasting is encouraged.



Sitting target? the Church of Christ says it offers "a sense of belonging", while opponents accuse it of brainwashing the homeless

Premarital sex is forbidden. Dating is closely monitored.

The church's enemies, or rivals, call this "brainwashing". Some parents employ "de-programmers" to kidnap their grown children (which is, of course, illegal) from "cults" and then submit them to horrific mind-cleansing techniques, using threats and, even violence, in some country hide-away. The de-programmers may charge thousands of pounds. "But to talk about 'brainwashing' as opposed to 'pressure' is just silly," Professor Barker says. (Most news stories, however, bring the word in, early on.) "It's wrong to see converts as pathetic victims. For those who join, it can offer a sense of belonging," she says. "Cults tend to flourish in hard times like these. My experience, over 20 years, is that there is some element of collaboration even in the weirdest cults. If it is 'brainwashing', how is it that so many people resist the CLCOC's approaches, and that there is such a huge turnover in

membership? Friendly 'exit-counselling' is a different matter from 'de-programming'. Professor Barker says. She does some herself, to help the disillusioned come to terms with life "outside". One former CLCOC member told me that he had to leave his telephone off the hook for two weeks to stop the barrage of calls trying to win him back, and even now he did not want his name published. People in the church he had counted as friends, stopped seeing him.

Professor Barker, a sociologist, is un-panicky. "They need watching," she says, "but they don't distribute drugs, don't sleep around, and I know of no criminal activities. If you were brought up, as I was, in the Western Isles of Scotland (the heartland of the 'Wee Free' church), you are used to churches that are determined that other people should be saved. What worries people is the intensity, the fervour. But some people do be-

lieve that God matters more."

The church is undoubtedly rather shy in the way it goes about things, as witness the confusion over the term Nightstop. At the LSE it called itself the Historical Literature Society, to woo converts. Different London branches hide themselves under titles such as City Christian Fellowship or North London Christian Fellowship. (The North London group holds services in the Odeon, Swiss Cottage. The main London Sunday service is at the Odeon, Leicester Square. The church has no churches.) The CLCOC has something in common with the Communist Party of the old days with its innumerable front organisations. The anti-cultists remind me, in their zeal, of old-style anti-communists.

"But we don't believe in banning," says the Rev Alan Walker, Anglican chaplain at the University of Westminster (the former Polytechnic of Central London). "Imagine if we tried to ban the Islamic Society, for example." Or, come to

that, the Workers' Revolutionary Party. "Students can start any society they wish," he says. "I've not come across any horror stories. There's a need to investigate such urban myths. A lot of the opposition comes from other evangelical Christians: it's successful competition."

One of the leading opponents is the Rev Steve Wookey, a curate at All Souls, Langham Place, a strongly evangelical Anglican church. He has written a booklet, "As Angels of Light?", which warns people off the CLCOC, and deplores its doctrines. He thinks it comes close to believing that salvation is achievable through good works alone ("the oldest heresy of them all", Mr Wookey says), rather than God's grace.

At the Bull Ring, the church group is joined by Tom, born in Hong Kong, and just qualified (he tells me) at St Bartholomew's Hospital, London, as a doctor. He greets the two Johns with the church's standard hug. "I think

university people are intelligent enough to know what it's all about. Being in the church never affected my studies," he says. "What I like about this church is that it is so dynamic, responding to new needs." He is working for the church full-time now. "My medical skills may be needed with the homeless."

There are three other young people with us at the Bull Ring, from a Methodist church in Hertfordshire. Andrew, Susan and Geoff. (The CLCOC's opponents say it never works with other churches; or, alternatively, that the hidden aim is only to convert.) They wanted to see what it was like here, and Tom asked them along. They have a less driven look than the two Johns, both of whom can lapse into CLCOC jargon. To Mr Partington, critics are dismissed as "bad attitude" people. To the younger John, in reaching the sleepers-out, "You've got to feel love for them, right? Whatever they say, right? [One has just called out, 'Send that darkie away!'] You have to speak from the heart, or they know it, right?" He is trying to build up a team of 12, to make the rounds. So far, he has nine.

A youngish sleeper-out, who says he has been here seven nights, "as a last resort", takes Mr Partington's little gold address sticker, and says he will ring him after the new year. He goes off for a cup of tea at the Anglican church in Waterloo. "I may well ring," he says. "After all, they don't have to come out here, do they?" In preparation for the homelessness programme, Mr Partington and a colleague spent a week sleeping rough. As he rightly says: "There are five or six different categories of people who sleep out." He and his church can only hope to help, and perhaps win over, a few.

A West Indian woman comes into the Bull Ring. She asks if we have any sheeting to cover her with, but our plastic bags only contain clothes. She goes and sits under a concrete ramp, staring ahead. Mr Partington goes over to talk to her. "She's fled from somewhere in west London — I think in some fear." He asks me if I know where the annual Crisis Christmas shelter is this year. The query surprises me. Shouldn't a group concerned with the homeless have such a standard piece of information? But I go off to a telephone box, get the number from directory enquiries, and find where this year's shelter is: up behind King's Cross. Crisis has a separate shelter for vulnerable women that she may be able to go on to from there.

The group breaks up. The three Methodists go off back to Hertfordshire, and Susan (who is training as a nurse at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London) takes an address sticker and says she will come again, with friends. Tom and John go off towards the sleepers-out by the riverside. Mr Partington guides the lost-looking West Indian woman towards his car, to take her to the night shelter.

Will he "convert" her? Would she be worse off, or better off, if he did? The Salvation Army may now be run in a way that resembles secular social work, but in General William Booth's day, you had to do "knee drill" (prayer) as the price of your bread, soup and bed for the night. I walked back from the Bull Ring, with a little pattern of religious evolution forming in my mind.

You begin as a "cult". If you survive for long enough (like the Jehovah's Witnesses or the Seventh Day Adventists), you become a "sect". This is half-way to respectability, if not to Heaven. Eventually, you reach, or decline into, the respectable haven of being an official "denomination" such as the Christian Scientists, or even the Methodists, who were also derided as fanatics in their day.

Then the cycle starts all over again. Are you washed in the Blood of the Lamb?

Just how accurately did astrologers foresee the royal family's turbulent year?

## Star sign pundits miss the point

As the year gutters out, with one last purgative foray into excess on behalf of New Year's eve, we turn once more unto that annual sport: forecasting the future of the royal family.

Most of us may hazard some guesses for fun, but some people predict for a living — serious political pundits, gossip columnists and, of course, astrologers. The pundits will be starting to work out their volte-face around January 4.

As for the astrologers... well, let's turn back the clock and see what the stars foretold this time last year for the royal family's 1992. Take this selection from Mystic Meg in the *News of the World* of December 29, 1991: January: "Son of a royal demands genetic tests"; February: "Royal pregnancy announced"; April: "Prince Edward in shock love revelations"; July: "Royals at centre of spy revelations"; August: "Royals get sinking feeling in yacht"; December: "New royal princess makes debut". Not much reality there.

In fairness, though, there was some accuracy. One prediction for March had "Royal moves to USA after filing for separation". The Yorks did separate in March, though the duchess's next stop was the unfortunately named Phuket in Thailand. Those truly bursting with Christmas spirit might just equate Andrew Morton's book, published in

June, with "Royal diary snatched at posh party". November was supposed to see a "royal reshuffle when prince makes dramatic announcement". Well, there were a few announcements, notably the Charles/Camilla Parker-Bowles phone chat, but a reshuffle?

The seers did not foresee the Queen's (April 21, Taurus) "annus horribilis". OK, for February they did warn "those spiteful words will truly hurt if you let them... don't lash out yourself" and she was duly reviled by Australia's Republican prime minister, Paul Keating. Aside from that, the crystal balls clouded over.

The "glow of inner happiness" that was promised for November must have been somewhat outshone by that of the Windsor Castle fire. In December, another son's marriage tumbled and Her Majesty's Christmas day message was leaked. Can either of these relate to "exercise hips as well as lips"? Mind you, the Queen did offer to become a taxpayer and Patric Walker in *The Mail on Sunday* on Janu-

ary 5, 1992, had warned Taurus that "there is a price to be paid for everything in this life and you are now expected to pay up". But as for the rumour which foretold a weight of worry is being lifted from you by a woman who is related to

The "glow of happiness" promised for November must have been outshone by that of the Windsor fire

your family", the less said the better.

It was, of course, the women in the Queen's life and the men in theirs, who contributed most to Her Majesty's year. The focus was on the Duchess of York (October 15, Libra) and the Duke of York (February 19, Pisces). After the

duchess's trip to Florida with Steve Wyatt, the lives of the duke and duchess schuss-boomed ever faster downhill.

They separated in March (her stars said "making a private burden public shifts a guilt-edged burden from your conscience"; his foretold "a work partnership, even with a pal, needs a legal check"). But there was more to come. In August the *Daily Mirror* splashed "wopless Fergie" pictures across every available page. Frolicking with her was John Bryan, who describes himself as her "financial adviser" ("someone in a smart suit is ready to get you a shot at that top job" said the *News of the World*. Mr Walker saw August as a good month for "friendships and associations which are not established partnerships").

But the duchess's peccadilloes were as nothing to the nightmares of her sister-in-law's year. The Princess of Wales (July 1, Cancer) and the Prince of Wales (November 14, Scorpio) had trouble all year, though it was not written in the stars. Mr Morton's book

failed to rate even the most oblique preview.

The "Squidgy tapes", revealed in August, were equally unforeseen. Back in 1991 the Princess of Wales had been advised by one astrologer, "to resist the persuasive power of a handsome plastic surgeon". Hardly, we must protest, the promotional executive with Louis racing team James Gilbey, generally touted as her interloper on the tapes.

The Prince of Wales's own tape emerged in November. ("A pale woman slinks into your life like a cat" and the official split came this month. (His: "A surge of all-star energy gets you spring cleaning your social life, now you'll see who your true friends are"; hers: "The secret of popularity is always to remember what to forget — apposite advice when faced with matrimonial problems").

Twelve months on and a new rash of predictions has been made. In the current issue of the weekly magazine *Best*, for instance, Barbara Dunn reckons that "The Prince and Princess of Wales are most unlikely to have more children... the Queen would be well advised to abdicate in 1993" and that the Princess Royal "may feel a strong inclination to marry". The princess, married these past three weeks, will doubtless have a phrase for that.

JONATHAN GREEN



Looking ahead: maybe this year's predictions about the royal family will be closer to the mark



Nicholas Ridley argues that the government's ill-considered privatisation proposals are heading for the buffers

## Simply no way to sell a railway

When Margaret Thatcher fell from power there were four major nationalised industries for which no privatisation plans existed: coal, rail, London Underground and the postal service. This was not accidental. The first three are heavy and sustained loss-makers, while the last presents special difficulties.

John Major — pressing on at least with the privatisation part of his legacy from Mrs Thatcher — decided to return coal, rail (and possibly London Underground) to the private sector. The government's attempts to privatise the first two, both loss-makers, have already run into deep trouble.

The truth is that it is almost impossible to privatise an industry where losses are endemic and cannot first be substantially cut by good management. The railways are in fact a good social service. Although they have been managed better in recent years than most people realise, they still lose large

sums of money. Last year, of the three sections into which British Rail is divided, InterCity broke about even, Network SouthEast lost £182 million and Regional Railways lost £580 million. These losses reflect the relative uncommerciality of each section.

It is wrong to describe the government's plans as privatisation. What they want to do is to keep the entire track network as a single, publicly-owned corporation, and to let franchises for private companies to run private trains on the public track. Subsidy will still be available. There will be various bodies whose job it will be to see fair play. Safety will remain the responsibility of the Railway Safety Inspectorate.

The fundamental difficulty with franchising is that trains and track

are all part of one system. The reliability of one depends on the reliability of the other, and both depend on the reliability of the signalling system. It is certainly true that the railways need big improvements, especially the commuter lines. These can come only from more investment — either in the stock, the track, or the signalling, or a combination of all three. I suspect that part of the government's motive for franchising is to get the private sector to raise the money needed for this investment, as it did for investment in the water industry. There is nothing wrong with that, but remember investment has to be rewarded; hence our higher water bills.

If private franchisees are to invest the extra needed to improve our

railways, they will have to do so by asking the track authority to upgrade the track and the signalling, as well as using better and newer rolling stock. If taxpayers are not to pay for rewarding this investment, then passengers will have to. I fear they will not.

Unlike the water industry, the railways have many competitors. Passengers will go by car, bus or aeroplane instead. Nor will a private operator, with only a time-limited franchise, want to sink the large capital sums involved. Unless his franchise is continuously renewed his capital will be eroded. Thus if railway quality and reliability are to be improved, only public investment can probably secure it.

Each sector of BR is different, of course. The above argument about investment applies most strongly to the south-east commuter lines, but also to much of Regional Railways. It is hard to see any operator wanting to pump money into the Southend-Fenchurch Street line or the West Cumbrian coast line.

There may be some cherries to pick in both sectors, but the majority of the networks are old, unglamorous and unprofitable. Sea Containers have expressed interest in some of the lines from London to the south coast, but want to close down the unprofitable parts. Victoria-Gatwick, which is a profitable line, will no doubt find a franchisee. Maybe a genius will make a profit out of the Settle-Carlisle line as a tourist treat.

But my guess is that the lack of potential for attracting more passengers and the risk to capital invested, will mean no rush of would-be entrepreneurs applying. The charges and payments to be agreed between franchisees and the track authority are many and complex, and even more so where subsidy is to be paid. The government's consultative document also suggests allowing more than one operator on a line. I think this would prove impossible and will have to be withdrawn.

InterCity is a better prospect in many ways. The east coast main line will have brand new stock, track and signalling. The rest of InterCity does need new equipment — particularly the west coast main line. But that will be for the

public sector to provide. InterCity lines are more glamorous, and the journeys take longer. There is scope for providing more comfort, better food and better service. Maybe someone will buy up some of the main stations, and make them jollier (and warmer) places to wait. There are indeed many possibilities for improving the lot of the long-distance passenger. But they are all opportunities for contracting out, not for franchising. It could be that the government would be wiser to urge British Rail for improvements through franchising.

It is not so much that it would be a bad thing to franchise out; the question is whether much will take place, and whether any small improvements that may come from it are worth the parliamentary, political and managerial hassle they are bound to cause.

Lord Ridley was Conservative MP for Cirencester & Tewkesbury 1959-92.

## Light up for a long life

Woodrow Wyatt on why smokers should all breathe more easily

There was breakfast in the members' dining room during all-night sittings, when the Commons was civilised. I would watch Winston Churchill, in opposition, ending a substantial meal; in one hand a glass of whisky, in the other a large cigar intermittently puffed joyously. At a distant table might be Clement Attlee, pipe in full smoke. Then no fanatics warned them against damaging their own or others' health. Not that they would have taken any notice; Churchill died at 91 and Attlee at 84.

In 1901 males on average could hope to live till 45.5 and females till 49. By 1991 the average life expectancy for men had risen to 73.2 and for women to 78.6 for women. Those 90 years must have been the most intense period of smoking in history, as women increasingly lit cigarettes in public and growing prosperity led to volume smoking throughout the population. Play statistics the same way anti-smokers do and you could say this proves persistent smoking aids longevity.

During the last war I took to smoking 60 cigarettes a day to stay awake long into the night while we were making intricate plans for the D-Day Normandy landings. I hated the taste and smell of cigarettes and still do. I would have preferred cigars but a major's pay was insufficient. Luckily, in Burma in 1949 I got amoebic hepatitis and cigarettes tasted so revolting that I determined never to smoke another when cured. I reverted solely to cigars and now smoke three to five fair-sized ones daily as a pleasurable way of relieving stress or enjoying the more the absence of it.

In his brilliant book *Smoking and Common Sense* (Peter Owen) the Danish doctor, Tage Voss, confirms smoking is a stimulant to the nervous system "intellectually as well as emotionally". It offers breaks and renewal of energy at work. Smokers are less prone to intestinal cancer, Parkinson's disease, heart failure and diabetes. Miners and asbestos workers who smoke get lung cancer less than those who don't. Nine out of ten smokers never get lung cancer but many non-smokers do.

Dr Hugh Sinclair was chief food adviser to Lord Woolton in the last war when the nation's diet was so well balanced that death rates from lung cancer and heart disease

dropped dramatically, though smoking was unabated. His researches showed that the Japanese, smoking incessantly, had very low rates of such diseases. But when they moved to California and, abandoning their fish and rice diet, ate like Americans, they were similarly afflicted.

Tobacco smoke is visible and it smells, making badly ventilated rooms stuffy. Anti-smoking fanatics, heirs to the ferocious puritans, encouraged by trendy doctors presenting no scientific evidence worth the name, claim they are the victims of passive smoking. Serious studies show that non-smokers need to be surrounded by smokers in a confined space for days before achieving the effect of smoking one cigarette.

Alcoholism is a genuine threat to life and it diverts limited medical and hospital resources away from patients whose illness are not self-inflicted. Yet twice as much is spent by the government in persecuting smokers as in warning against our drinking. Government statements on cigarette packets such as "tobacco seriously damages health" are simply flawed slogans of the anti-smoking lobby. If, instead, tobacco products carried the statement "banning smoking and tobacco advertising seriously damages jobs" this would be indisputably true.

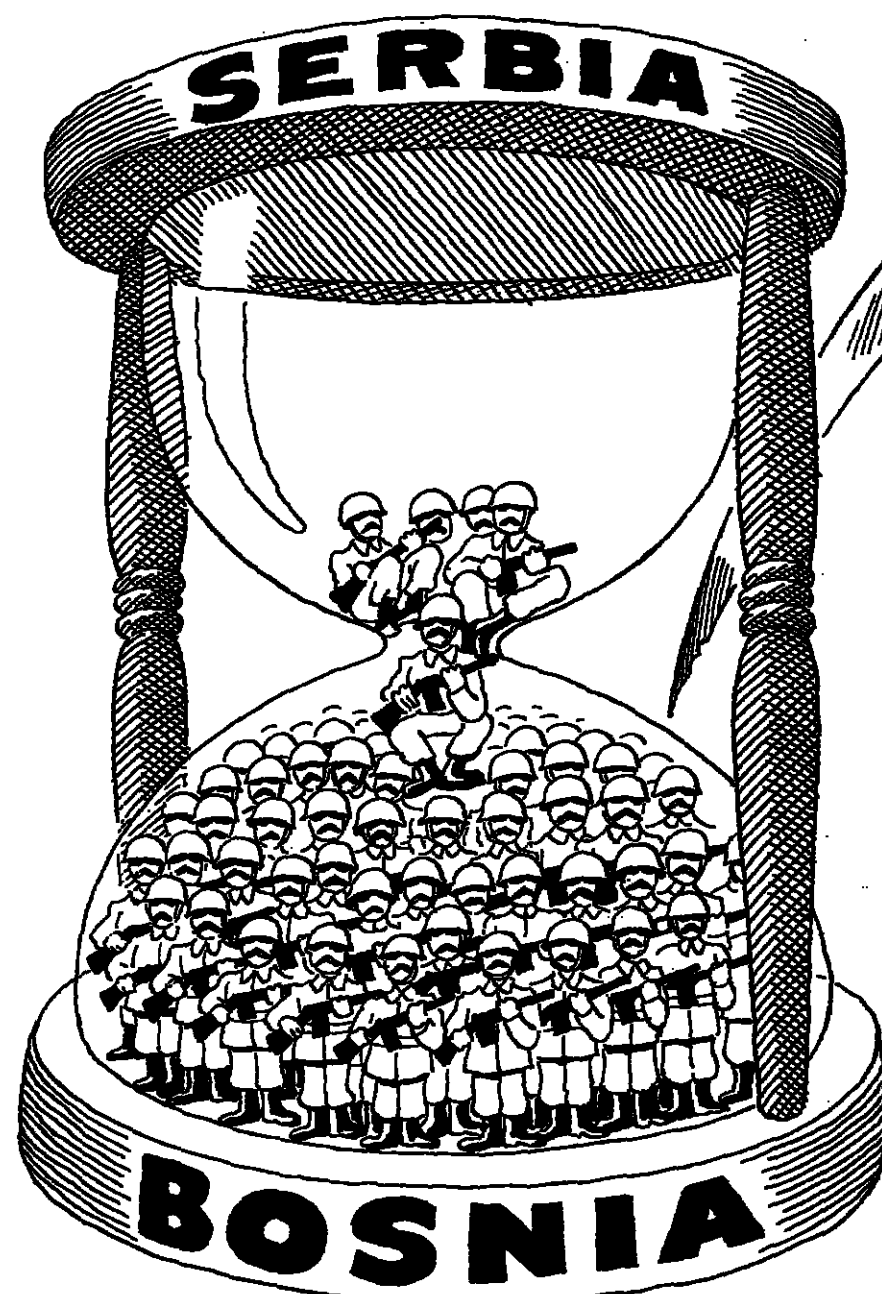
Employment in UK tobacco manufacturing has dropped by over two-thirds, with a concomitant reduction among those employed in distributing and selling tobacco products, since 1979. But taxes on tobacco rose by more than half in real terms, now providing over £8 billion in revenue: the poorest 20 per cent of households pay more in tobacco tax than income tax. The Chancellor would be in dire straits if the department of health, with flimsy medical arguments relying more on prejudice than analysis, achieved its aim of losing this huge revenue.

Restaurants rally to the curious cause of harassing smokers. Even in the Lords, rooms where the rule of peaceful silence reigns are for non-smokers only. The intolerant anti-smoking campaigners aim to extinguish the civil liberties of those whose habits they dislike. Will they apologise when the medical profession eventually admits, as it will surely have to, that smoking does not seriously endanger health?

Anti-smoking campaigners aim to extinguish the civil liberties of those whose habits they dislike

British foreign policy in the Balkans has at best been inept, writes Martin Ivens

## Whitehall at war



If war is too important to be left to the generals then it is too important by far to be left to the journalists. The uproar caused by the harrowing television coverage of the ethnic cleansing camps in Bosnia prompted the government's original dispatch of 2,400 British troops to conduct humanitarian relief without forethought for the political or military consequences. Film footage from the siege of Sarajevo is likely to galvanise public opinion in similar fashion. It were best that the government and the Foreign Office were equipped with a policy this time round.

After the exchange-rate débâcle, the muddle in the Commons over Maastricht and Mr Heseltine's pit disaster, the government badly needs to prove its strategic competence. The public will forgive ministers for making a hash of the economy — after all that is a traditional British sport played by governments of every political hue — but Conservative governments are uniquely expected to be good at foreign affairs. If the Tories foul up abroad its leaders, like Chamberlain and Eden, fall.

Britain has a Rolls-Royce foreign secretary in Mr Douglas Hurd. He has the right experience and a proper air of gravitas. Mr Hurd was the only minister to give a speech of any intellectual or moral depth during the Conservative party conference. He seems to be the only minister with the ability to put forward a philosophy of government and he has a coherent vision, right or wrong, of Britain's place in the world or rather Europe. Behind Mr Hurd we have a Foreign Office of able career civil servants, the envy, we are also told, of the Americans and our other allies. We expect political leadership from that department and its masters. We are not getting it.

In the days of Mrs Thatcher leadership was no problem. A decision would be taken to punish a foreign aggressor. The cabinet would be cajoled, the press squared and the British public told to do its patriotic duty. She would then fly off to Aspen or Washington and hector the American president into backing Britain. Alternatively she would declare the crisis concerned a far off country of which we knew little. At least under Mrs Thatcher, whatever the merits of the decision, Britain entered into war at its own volition.

If Britain, under John Major and Mr Hurd, will not show leadership over Yugoslavia then others will fill the vacuum. Belatedly, leadership, of a very peculiar sort, is being provided by Washington. The Bush administration has been indulging in an extraordinary round of international desk-clearing. Within a few weeks Somalia has been invaded for humanitarian

purposes, an arms-control treaty has been readied and a no-fly zone enforced in southern Iraq.

Mr Bush's role as a hyperactive globe-cop has culminated in the threat of war against Serbia if Slobodan Milosevic misbehaves towards the Albanians of Kosovo. It is a funny place to have chosen to draw a line in the sand or the snow-capped hills. The Albanian majority is oppressed but the territory undoubtedly lies within Serbia's borders. All the same it is a policy and one which demands a British response. After all, if the Americans are only going to fight the Serbs from the air the British will make up the poor bloody infantry. It is time to come to a decision and the omens are not good.

During 1992 the Foreign Office appeared to believe that Yugoslavia was a problem that would just go away. It staged a bizarre peace conference in London which her-

alded a further outbreak of fighting. Britain then backed a United Nations resolution for a no-fly zone in Bosnia without showing the slightest intention of enforcing it. Sanctions were passed but nobody believed they would bring Serbia to its knees.

With British policy already in a complete muddle, the King Charles Street mandarins dived their hands with a little public relations. Friendly journalists were summoned and the war of words against Serbia was heated up. Threatened with a war they certainly did not want to fight the Ministry of Defence responded by summoning its pet hacks to argue the case against intervention. They whispered that 100,000 troops were the minimum guarantee for victory. On the ground in Bosnia Colonel Stewart of the

Cheshire Regiment asked Whitehall live on the *Today* programme for more helicopter support. Whitehall was at war with itself.

Temporarily buoyed up by a Panglossian hope that Milan Pucic would win the Serbian election Britain floated the no-fly zone again. All hopes collapsed as President Milosevic, possibly boosted by western rhetoric that he may be a war criminal, won re-election. More talk of a no-fly zone. Getting in far deeper than they ever imagined Mr Major and Mr Hurd were forced reluctantly to follow the American line.

After a year of diplomatic hot-air the government faces a harsh choice: fight or flee.

What are the objectives of British foreign policy in Yugoslavia? Does the government actually think that Bosnia should be carved up between the Croats and the Serbs? Should a safe haven for Bosnian

Muslims be our humanitarian objective? Do we really believe that the fighting is about to burn itself out, having expressed that pious hope for more than a year? Does Britain still stand by its decision to uphold the integrity and international borders of Bosnia? Is the government prepared to commit ground troops to a war fought by the Americans from the air? Does Mr Hurd really care whether aggression in Europe is seen to succeed or fail? Should post-cold war frontiers be defended with more than words? Civil servants can offer intelligent advice but ultimately it is the politicians who must provide the answers.

Castlereagh or Palmerston would be shocked at this policy of drift, of supine reaction to events, possibly leading to war. The journalists will fight on. The Americans will decide. It is a very strange beast that slouches towards Sarajevo.

## On the road to Split

THERE IS something of a celebrity traffic jam building up on the streets of Bosnia as comedians and politicians fall over each other in an attempt to visit the politically correct destination of 1992.

The latest to have flown out is Stuart Hall, of *It's a Knockout* fame, who is doing his bit for our boys facing new year on the front line. Hall, whose *Jeu sans Frontières* experience no doubt equipped him well for his five-day "goodwill mission", is making a documentary for Granada television which will be broadcast on January 30.

He last visited the country to make a Yugoslavian version of *It's a Knockout* or *Igre Bez Granica* as it is known locally. "I did a lot of banging on the back of warrior tanks," handing out Christmas cakes," Hall says.

Hall follows on the heels of Paul Daniels who, according to the defence ministry, visited Croatia earlier in the year, and Page 3 girl, Maria Whitaker, who has done her bit for our boys in Bosnia. Jim Davidson entertained the troops over Christmas and Chelsea Renton, daughter of the former arts minister Tim, leaves this week to

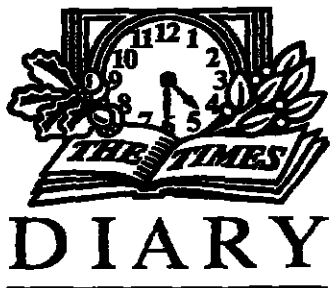
help to run a refugee camp in Croatia.

Earl Spencer, in his capacity as a journalist for Granada's *This Morning* programme, is just back from Croatia where the *Hello!* magazine team was conveniently on hand to record his visit. Bob Carolgees and his canine puppet Spit have also paid a visit to the war-torn country.

Not to be outdone, Britain's politicians are queuing up to follow in the trail blazed by Paddy Ashdown and John Major. A delegation from the all-party Bosnia group is expected to visit Split in January. Patrick Cormack, Conservative MP for Staffordshire South, can't wait to go. He is likely to be joined by Calum MacDonald, Labour MP for the Western Isles, and Sir Russell Johnston, Liberal Democrat MP for Inverness, Nairn and Lochaber.

### Gold lining

DIAMOND brooches may not be high on the aid agenda for Somalia, but British celebrities are raving their jewellery for the famine-ravished region. Those digging deep into the family treasure chests



include Norma Major and the Queen Mother. Their donations will be auctioned on February 14 at Phillips for the Red Cross Pot of Gold Appeal and the proceeds will go towards buying food and medicine for Somalis.

Mrs Major has given a Victorian compact. Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare has donated his grandfather's gold pocket watch and the Queen Mother has given an 18th-century writing desk. Cliff Richard has donated a diamond tennis racket brooch, presumably a memento from his friendship with Sue Barker, and Elton John is giving a Russian lachquer box.

The Princess of Wales has donated one of her many carriage clocks, no doubt aware of the success these have had in the past. A carriage clock donated by the princess to the charity Relate raised £10,500 at

an auction in 1989. The following year another of her clocks fetched £17,500 for Capital Radio's Help a London Child appeal.

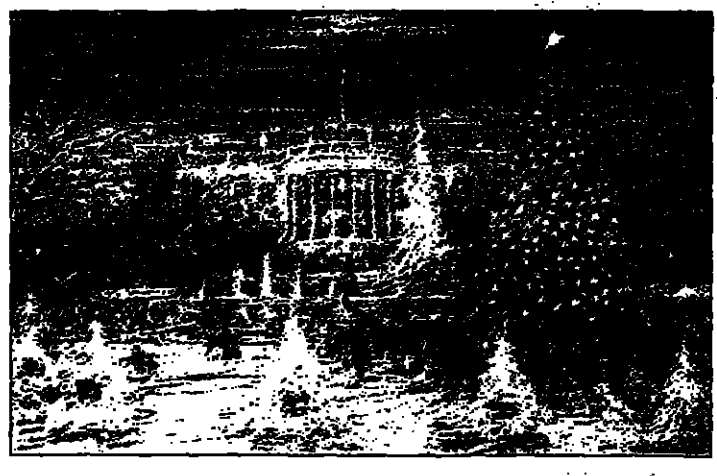
The Queen, Baroness Chalker, and Baroness Thatcher have all given cash donations. Tony Benn has, appropriately, given a Wedgwood paper knife.

The appeal has raised more than £270,000 in cash, and the jewellery auction, is expected to help the appeal towards its £2 million target.

Further tales of bureaucracy from those masters of efficiency at the Department of Trade and Industry. In recent months staff have received a security notice entitled "Replacement of Red Seals used for Sealing Top Secret and Secret Material" complete with 12 diagrams showing how it is done. This was followed by Notice 30/90 on the testing of portable electrical equipment which forbids staff from changing a plug on a kettle. No sooner had this been digested than they each received a copy of the DTI's building management team's "footrest quantity survey" form.

### Telling bid

EAT YOUR heart out Frankfurt. Move over Bonn. The leading candidates vying to house the Euro-



George Bush is making the most of his final Christmas in the White House. His Christmas card, above, shows a somewhat sentimental view of his soon to be vacated home painted by Kamill Kubik. "The President and Mrs Bush extend to you their best wishes for a joyous Christmas and a new year that brings peace to our world", reads the message which has gone to an intimate circle — 160,000 of the president's closest friends.

pean Central Bank have a rival. Dunoon, Dunwo? Dunoon, the small Scottish town, whose chief claim to fame is as a home to employees of the now dismantled US Polaris naval base, has made a bid.

A report, by Brian Dunbar, the local community council chairman, lauds the virtues of Dunoon including "excellent telecommunications, good European air links through Glasgow airport and excellent quality of life".

An incurable optimist Dunbar may be, but he knows that the bid is unlikely to succeed. "The first reaction to mention of a bid from a Dunoon for the European Central

Bank is one of laughter and disbelief," he admits. But the attempt was, he adds, likely to put the name of Dunoon, firmly on the EC map, an effort likely to please one old boy, John Smith, the pro-European opposition leader, finished his secondary education in the town.

The saga of the famed Scandic Crown Hotel in Edinburgh is taking on the proportions of a Scandinavian epic. The recent devastating blaze at the hotel, well chronicled in these columns, was fought by local fireman, David Stirling. The night before the fire he had won first prize in his station's Christmas raffle. The prize? Dinner for two at the Scandic Crown Hotel.







## THE WRONG ULTIMATUM

Macedonia, not Kosovo, should be the West's sticking-point

President George Bush has drawn a line in the Serbian mud. In a letter to President Slobodan Milosevic he threatens military action should the Serbs crack down on the ethnic Albanians of Kosovo. It is a dangerous gamble; a line should be drawn by the West, but not in Kosovo, which the Serbs regard as the cradle of their civilisation.

The US is right to be concerned about the future of the province. Kosovo has become a miniature police state. Some 100,000 ethnic Albanians — who make up 93 per cent of the population — have been sacked over the past two years. Albanian schools have been banned since 1990. Sacked Albanian professors teach over 25,000 students in an illegal university. According to human rights groups the Serbian police have behaved with systematic brutality against the Albanians. Visitors to the province describe it as close to boiling point. Since an uprising there could engage Albania and the ethnic Albanians of Macedonia, there is a legitimate Western concern about the spread of war in the Balkans.

But the one belief that unites all Serbs is that Kosovo is inalienably part of Serbia. Mr Milan Panic, the unsuccessful contender in the Serbian presidential elections, made some useful proposals about liberalising the regime in Kosovo, and giving it a degree of autonomy. But even he has not gone as far as suggesting independence for the region. The Serbian Orthodox church, which supported the opposition to Mr Milosevic, has its seat in Pec in the province. And the Battle of Kosovo in 1389, when the Serbian kingdom was defeated by the Ottoman Turks, is counted as the date when Serbs set out on the road to modern statehood.

In short, a US intervention in Kosovo

would be deemed an act of war against Serbia. It would destroy long-term hopes that a democratic opposition will one day be able to replace President Milosevic. The Albanians in Kosovo, moreover, could well be encouraged by President Bush's threat to rise against the Serbs in the hope that outside military intervention would improve their lot. Is an all-out war against Serbia now being contemplated by Washington? Probably not, yet that would be the direct consequence of any military intervention to stop abuses in Kosovo.

The US administration is correct to increase the pressure on Serbia. President Bush's stated determination to defend UN troops on the ground will go some way to reassuring Britain. Policing the no-fly zone remains a sensible measure, a relatively low-cost deterrent to Serbian aggression in Bosnia. The threat of war against Belgrade over the Kosovo issue is a rash gesture that will neither prevent the war moving south nor improve the lives of the Kosovars.

The line should rather be drawn in Macedonia where UN monitors are gradually being installed. If the fighting moves into this republic, then the West would be right to act quickly and with all necessary force. The Kosovars can be helped in different ways. Everything possible should be done to keep Albanian culture alive; the dreadful *Kulturkampf* should be deplored in every possible international forum. Albania should be confined in more closely by the West, for intelligent restraint by Tirana will be an important element in keeping the peace in the Balkans. All this requires determined and energetic diplomacy. Mere sabre-rattling by the outgoing president is no help at all.

## FRAIL BLUE LINE

Women police officers need protection as well as equality

The brutal attack on WPC Lesley Harrison in Liverpool has forced a reappraisal of how the police force treats its female officers. WPC Harrison has been attacked three times in five years of service. Her misfortune illustrates the problem facing any society that aspires to equality of opportunity: how to reconcile that goal with an equally essential responsibility to protect the vulnerable.

The rise of women to their current numerical strength in the police force has been an arduous struggle. Though matrons were taken on by the police in the 1890s, the first woman officer, Edith Smith, was not sworn in until 1915. The theoretical equality of women in the force was entrenched by the 1975 Sex Discrimination Act and strengthened two years ago by a joint Metropolitan Police and Equal Opportunities Commission review. Yet the distasteful macho resistance to women police officers persists. Last summer, Alison Halford, a former Merseyside assistant chief constable, accepted an out-of-court settlement after suing the police for sexual discrimination. Only five members of the 230-strong Association of Chief Police Officers are female.

There is a danger, therefore, that the attack on WPC Harrison, and the angry debate surrounding it, will be exploited by those who would downgrade women's role in the police. It would be foolish to yield to such pressure. Women accounted for a quarter of police appointments last year, and more than 11 per cent of officers at the scene of a crime, and 12 per cent of those on patrol, are female. As the workforce shrinks, the police force cannot afford to dissuade young women from joining its ranks. WPCs take part in all aspects of police work but they

also perform special roles judged to require a feminine touch. The presence of women officers has been found to have an emollient effect on crowds and minor disturbances, for example. Their involvement is essential to the management of cases involving rape, child abuse and domestic violence. The police force is not gender-blind in the deployment of its officers. Nor should it be in its arrangements to protect them.

Territories once sacred to men are being steadily colonised by women: more than 34,000 of them served on the Allied side in the Gulf war and an increasing number are becoming firefighters, in spite of height restrictions. Yet the fact remains that women are 30 per cent weaker than men. Since the vast majority of criminals are male, WPCs will almost always be at a physical disadvantage when they face suspects.

An obvious measure would be to adjust duty rotas so that female officers on night patrol were always accompanied by a male colleague. But such a measure would almost certainly result in court action and might even require legislation to modify the 1975 act. It would be unpopular with WPCs, who would regard it as patronising.

A better approach would be to heed the warnings of the Police Federation that a standard 21-inch baton should be issued to officers, instead of the 14-inch truncheon currently issued to men and the 9-inch "handbag" model given to WPCs. The Home Office should speed up its enquiry into the potential of body armour. Last year, 1,300 police officers sustained serious or fatal injuries in the line of duty. The particular vulnerability of WPCs strengthens the case for better protection all round.

## ALL THE WORLD'S A SALE

This modern bargain shopping binge has deep, dark roots

The feeding frenzy of British shoppers hunting for bargains in the post-Christmas sales seems to have abated a bit yesterday. But this has still become a remarkable annual phenomenon, the purpose of which is lost in the mists of folk routine, along with the purposes of Boxing day and Budget day. People rush to the sales like hysterical lemmings because the sales are there, and have become part of the rich tapestry of the revolving English year.

So this year, as has become customary, we have had the vaunt vainglorious from the chairman of the Oxford Street Association that "It's the busiest start we have seen for some time." This is his annual incantation, as empty of content as other traditional English cries such as the "Oyez" of the town crier or the "Order, order" of the Speaker. We have heard the annual proclamation paragonomic of the headline poets: "Millions out saying buy buy to the stump for happy queue year." There have been the hyperbolic horrors of city centres seized up with illegally parked cars, and tailbacks of ten miles snaking down the approach roads to shopping centres from Bristol to Gateshead. We have gasped at the annual human interest stories of mothers serving Christmas dinners to their children in the queue, and of the 20th-century equivalent of stylites who have spent weeks camped on the pavement to be at the head of the rush when the doors open on the sales. Television has shown the obligatory scenes of shop-floor madness as grown men and women scurrying like rugby loose forwards to shovel armfuls of crockery into carrier bags with prestigious brand names printed on them.

There are divers and diverse pop so-

ciological explanations for the sales frenzy, which increases every year. In a recession, people are trying to get as big a bang for their scarce money as possible. Shopping is notoriously a modern obsession: car boot sales are the fastest-growing events of the decade. Like Christmas, the sales come earlier every year, and some shops have held nothing but "sales" all this year, in which shopkeepers have almost forgotten the procedures of their trade of throwing goods into a plastic bag and handing them over with a scowl in exchange for money. In a genuine sale, to qualify as reductions goods must have been sold at the higher advertised price for at least 28 days in the previous six months. To supervise this code in the sales is as hopeless as trying to referee a local Derby from the upper stands. And many bargains bought in haste are repented at leisure.

But part at least of the attraction of the sales phenomenon is a consumerist circle. They have become national events, seen on television, and a godsend to newspapers in the dead week before the turn of the year. Because they have become famous, the crowds pursue their fame. Modern man and woman live in their centrally heated but isolated caves, and have few tribal gatherings to attend, such as the witenagemots and picture palaces of the past. At the sales they feel again at the centre of things instead of on the outside looking in. This week's sales frenzy may signal the green shoots, or at any rate the broken china, of a consumer-led end to the recession. Perhaps it is an atavistic echo of the old northern winter solstice festival of misrule. At least it sends a message to the few people left who actively dislike shopping, to put it off, for yet another week.

## Case for UN court to try war crimes

From His Honour Alan King-Hamilton, QC

Sir, In your leading article, "Atrocities of war" (December 18), you refer to Mr Lawrence Eagleburger, US Secretary of State, as having named three men suspected of ordering war crimes to be committed. You point out that "there is already a war crimes commission reporting to the United Nations Security Council but it cannot hold trials".

I have long held the view that the UN should establish a permanent international criminal court which would have jurisdiction to try all crimes against international law. This, of course, would include war crimes.

If such a court had been in existence, it might (one cannot put it higher) have deterred Saddam Hussein from invading Kuwait, setting fire to Kuwait oil wells and attempting genocide of the Kurds. Its existence could have encouraged the Security Council to order the allies to pursue Saddam Hussein and arrest him, and of course it could have tried him.

It would also be a very appropriate tribunal to try the two Libyans accused of the Lockerbie bomb outrage. They could not complain that from that tribunal they would not get a fair trial and might more readily surrender to its jurisdiction.

Moreover, the very existence of such a court might have prevented some of the wanton atrocities now being committed in the Balkans, all the more so if it had already dealt with the above cases.

It is still not too late to set up such a court, manned perhaps by five, or seven, judges from a panel recruited from the states represented in the full Security Council. Such a court would avoid the adverse criticism directed against the Nuremberg tribunal because its judges represented the victors who were trying their former enemies.

I submit that its very existence would have a salutary effect.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN KING-HAMILTON,  
Royal Air Force Club,  
128 Piccadilly, W1,  
December 21.

## Unemployment's blight

From Dr H. Alwyn C. McKay

Sir, Dr McKenzie (letter, December 14) seeks to label replacement of men by the machines in the Post Office that read postcodes, by the simple expedient of not using postcodes. He touches on an issue of wide concern.

It is evidently profitable for the Post Office to introduce the machines and so reduce staffing levels, but is it profitable for the country as a whole, which has to pay the social services costs of the resultant unemployment? If the latter exceed the Post Office's increased profits, then the country suffers a net loss.

Quite generally, indeed, what is profitable for an individual enterprise may be unprofitable nationally. If the economists could find a way of rectifying this anomaly, then the effect of new technology on employment prospects might be mitigated.

Yours faithfully,  
H. A. C. MCKAY,  
Suliven, 3 Grange Close,  
Goring,  
Reading, Berkshire,  
December 16.

## All stirred up

From Mr Roy D. Roebuck

Sir, Pray inform Mr Levin ("Last writ for the libel liars", December 28), since he has worn out a couple of dozen of newspaper legal advisers, that the common-law offence of barratry (vexatious stirring up of lawsuits) was abolished by section 13 of the Criminal Law Act 1967, as being an "obsolete crime".

I have the honour to be, Sir, your humble and obedient servant,  
ROY ROEBUCK,  
Bell Yard Chambers,  
116-118 Chancery Lane, WC2,  
December 28.

## Sunday profits

From Mr Bob Clough-Parker

Sir, You are right (leading article, December 17) to say the Sunday trading issue is in a muddle and, clearly, both sides will claim victories in the wake of the European Court's latest pronouncements.

But you are wrong to suggest that Sunday trading is all about responding to public demand. Stores are open not so much because they want to serve the public but because they want to increase their market share — the secret of success for any business.

It is an odd situation indeed that sees the likes of Marks & Spencer and C & A being penalised for keeping within the letter and spirit of the law when their high-street competitors are making commercial gains while breaking the law, and doing so with the apparent blessing of politicians charged with upholding the law.

Yours faithfully,  
BOB CLOUGH-PARKER  
(General Secretary),  
Chester & District Chamber of Trade,  
PO Box 235, Chester,  
December 17.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Peanington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### Private cash to fund public works

From Professor R. J. Bridle, FEng, and Mr L. J. Cox

Sir, We have for long advocated private investment in public works. Two techniques should be given more attention.

The first is renting public works from the private sector on a buy-back basis, for example the public sector paying rent for each vehicle carried on a road, measured electronically. The rent structure would provide the basis for tendering.

Tolls may actually deter economic activity and divert traffic, causing congestion elsewhere. The Severn bridge is a significant example, affecting development in South Wales.

The second technique involves public works built in exchange for planning permission. This is not a drain on capital available for investment. A bypass for an industrial area, for example, is a good trade.

There are other ways, but these two illustrate the advantages of putting unused resources to work.

If the capital finances available were so used, the programme of public works could be substantially increased now. This would generate economic activity, increase employment, reduce the cost to the government of un-

employment and increase tax income. The real benefits could be set against the rent and provide the wherewithal to meet future bills.

Such an arrangement would put to work all those resources — materials, plant and expertise — now lying idle. This is the best bank on which to draw. It also ensures greater use of home products and leads to import substitution.

The risk to the contractor lies in predicting future traffic on a road or a similar measure of usage for other public works. Real competition would ensure value for money.

This is perhaps not the most cost-effective way to build roads, but it is appropriate for the present financial constraints.

Yours truly,  
R. J. BRIDLE (Chief Highway Engineer, Department of Transport, 1976-80),  
JOHN COX (Managing Director, Tarmac National Construction Ltd., 1977-81),  
Parsonage Farm,  
Kenys Commander, nr Usk, Gwent,  
December 28.

Business letters, page 19

### Threat to hospitals

From Dr Elizabeth Kenyon

Sir, I have read with amazement the correspondence (December 19, 22, 28) which followed from Simon Jenkins's most balanced article on the proposed closure of St Bartholomew's Hospital (December 16). To those who argue that Bart's must remain open in order to preserve the children's cancer centre there, may I propose the alternative argument?

1. Children with cancer need integrated care with clinical, research, nursing and paramedical excellence in a hospital with a viable future.  
2. Children with cancer from all over the country coming to London represent extra-contractual referrals, the money following the patient under the new system.

3. While Bart's and other metropolitan hospitals may close, others will soon open and surviving trust hospitals will seek to expand. The success of such trusts critically depends on the volume of extra-contractual referrals.

4. If, therefore, the Bart's children's cancer centre is as good as they say it is, it will undoubtedly be solicited to relocate lock, stock and barrel into one of the viable trust hospitals (in much the same way as the excellent St Mark's Hospital will likely be rehoused at Northwick Park Hospital). If there are no takers then we must

assume that expert clinical managers are less enthusiastic about the centre than are parents of the unfortunate children.

One of the beauties of the proposals for London is that medical excellence will be relocated in more appropriate surroundings, while the dead wood is eradicated.

Yours sincerely,  
ELIZABETH KENYON,  
25 Bishop's Court,  
John Garne Way, Oxford,  
December 28.

From Mrs Patricia Phillips

Sir, It is simply not the case that the central thesis of the Tomlinson report has gone largely unchallenged, as suggested by Jeremy Laurence (report, December 16).

In the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy's response to the report, we made it abundantly clear that not only was there no case made by Tomlinson for closing a single hospital in London but that, conversely, there is ample evidence of long waiting lists for inpatient treatment in both central and outer London.

Yours faithfully,  
PATRICIA PHILLIPS  
(Chairman of Council),  
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy,  
14 Bedford Row, WC1,  
December 16.

### Comings and goings

From Mr Alec Samuels

Sir, When I am walking along in a public place I come face to face with another person coming in the opposite direction. Sometimes we both go to go left, or right, sometimes we both hesitate. Is there any sort of sensible practice or convention to resolve this little problem?

On the London Underground, for example, we are asked to keep right (on the stairs and escalators and in the tunnels). On the footway the practice used to be for the gentleman to move to the left side, to protect the lady who would move to the right side, to protect the elderly and infirm and children.

Would it not be easier for all of us if there were some sort of convention in these things?

Yours faithfully,  
ALEC SAMUELS,  
14 Redhill, Basset,  
Southampton, Hampshire.

### Forms of address

From Canon Michael McAdam

Sir, The clergy have grown accustomed to having their courtesy title abbreviated to Rev (letters, December 28).

The technique is being extended. One advertising company sends me its literature addressed to "Can McAdam". There is no full stop. Should there not be a question mark?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL MCADAM,  
The Rectory,  
Much Hadham, Hertfordshire,  
December 28.

### Mozart's malady

From Professor J. S. Jenkins

Sir, You report (December 18) the view that Mozart suffered from the uncommon condition Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome as an explanation for the well-known sociological nature of some of his letters.

Clinically this diagnosis is almost certainly incorrect, since the essential features of the syndrome are facial tics, which there is no evidence that Mozart had, and these are often associated with explosive obscene utterances.

These uncontrolled vocal manifestations are quite unlike the carefully constructed laudatory writings of Mozart, consciously directed at certain individuals, notably his young cousin, described as a scamp, who was the recipient of his affection and for whose

benefit was the vulgar song quoted in your report.

It is also true that, however infrequently, Mozart's austere father, his mother, and even his prim sister all wrote in a similar excretory manner.

Moreover, patients with the Gilles de la Tourette's syndrome often have a deficiency in short-term memory, a feature which can hardly apply to Mozart, who is reputed to have written out a complete score of Allegri's Miserere after hearing it once only.

Eyewitness reports certainly suggest a hyperactive somewhat immature individual, but the complex personality and genius of Mozart cannot be confined within the label of a syndrome.

Yours faithfully,  
J. S. JENKINS,  
40 Hampstead Way, NW11,  
December 19.

### Future power of Islamic states

From Dr Kalim Siddiqui

Sir, Your leading article of December 22, "Muslims awake", makes some good points, especially about the "impotence" of the Arab and other "Islamic" states. The Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) is impotent, in much the same way as the League of Nations was impotent as an instrument of "collective security" against the Nazis.

One has to wait for the post-colonial phase completely to run its course and the emergence of Islamic states following comprehensive Islamic revolutions. Until then the Muslim awakening will continue to be expressed by those the West calls "fundamentalists". The *umma* is not a "concerted Islamic nation": it is a global organism of all Muslims. So long as the pain of Bosnia, Ayodhya, Algeria, Iraq, Somalia, Kashmir, Palestine, etc. is felt by ordinary Muslims everywhere the *umma* is alive and awake.

The nation-states are an alien and temporary imposition on Islam and will soon be consigned to the dustbin of history. Then the *umma* will re-emerge in its global political role, with all the necessary power at its command.

In the meantime, please remember that Afghanistan has already accounted for the Soviet Union, Iran has defeated and expelled the West, the Hezbollah in Lebanon drove out both the Israelis and the US Marines, and Algeria should soon fall to Islam.

You should not expect the "impotence" of Islam to be permanent.

Yours faithfully,  
KALIM SIDDIQUI  
(Leader, The Muslim Parliament of Great Britain),  
6 Endsleigh Street, WC1,  
December 28.

From Mr Louis Fitzgibbon

Sir, As the UN secretary-general prepares to follow Paddy Ashdown, MP, and the prime minister to Bosnia, and President Bush gets ready to spend New Year in Somalia, who is going to visit the Palestinians marooned in a camp at Marj Az-Zahour and deliberately deprived of aid of any kind?

From those that have not ...  
Yours sincerely,  
LOUIS FITZGIBBON,  
8 Portland Place,  
Brighton, East Sussex,  
December 24.

### De-icing agent

From Mr Trevor Sharot

Sir, Driving to work these frosty mornings I see any number of motorists laboriously scraping ice off their car windows before starting away. I find that a kettle of warm water poured over the glass melts the ice immediately and does a more thorough job too. A wipe with a rubber squeegee prevents refreezing on the colder days.

Yours in haste,  
T. SHAROT,  
6 Hillview Road, Hatch End,  
Pinner, Middlesex,  
December 28.

### Pay for silence

From Mr James Macmillan

Sir, Philip Howard (article, December 12) recommends a policy of "write-off" to compensate writers, like farmers, for cutting back on production. I should like to see a policy of "sit-off" to compensate members of Parliament for not speaking either in the House or to cameras.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES MACMILLAN,  
Curlew Tye Cottage,  
Woodham Walter, Maldon, Essex.

### That Strine again ...

From Dr John Doherty

Sir, The real name of Afterbeck Lauder, professor of Strine studies at Sinny University, is no longer a mystery (Diary, December 28). He is now known to be Alastair Morrison, who published much original material on Strine in the *Cinnamon Herald* (Sydney Morning Herald).

Morrison's mastery of metanalysis and syncope, coupled with his unerringly precise use of elision and assimilation, are well illustrated in his finding that at this time of year Strines everywhere gather to sing "Shoulder Quaint's Beef Cot", also known as "Frolang Zine".

Yaws in Scilly.

JOHN DOHERTY,  
Via Cleante 13,  
Casal Palocco, Rome,  
December 29.

From Mr Sandy Skinner

Sir, Sorry, Cobber, yer diarist's got his Strine in a twist. "Gloria Soame" is not Ms Soame's establishment. It is a house of exceptional splendour.

I remain, Sir, the right way up,  
SANDY SKINNER,  
6 Ruston Mews, W11,  
December 28.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**SANDRINGHAM**  
December 29: The Hon Mary Morrison has succeeded the Lady Susan Hussey as Lady in Waiting to the Queen.

**Anniversaries**  
BIRTHS: Rudyard Kipling, poet and novelist, Bombay, 1865: Carol Reed, film director, Putney, 1906.  
DEATHS: Robert Boyle, chemist, London, 1691: John Needham, priest and man of science, Brussels, 1781: Amelia Bloomer, campaigner for women's rights, 1894.

## Forthcoming marriages

**Mr G.R.C. Cameron**  
and Miss S.L. Houssemayne  
Du Boulay

The engagement is announced between Gordon, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Colin Cameron, of Uddingston, Glasgow, and Sarah, eldest daughter of Major and Mrs David Du Boulay, of Conin, Ross-shire.

**Mr J.F. Chance**  
and Miss F.H.C. Chapman

The engagement is announced between James, youngest son of Mr and Mrs R.M. Chance, of Bindura, Zimbabwe, and Fiona, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Denis H.C. Chapman, of Seabury, Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

**Mr D.W. Howard**  
and Miss B.S. Cassidy

The engagement is announced between Dominic, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Esme Howard, of Westcott Square, London, and of Mrs Francis Bennett, of Twickenham, and Belinda Sarah, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Cassidy, of Albany, Surrey.

**Mr G.L.G. Jeffcock**  
and Miss S.J. Sook

The engagement is announced between George, youngest son of Mr and Mrs D.P. Jeffcock, of Wellington House, Lympington, Hampshire, and Sara Jane, daughter of Mr Ian Sook, of Lennet Way, Lympington, and Mrs Michael Mapes, of North Street, Pennington, Lympington, Hampshire.

**Mr M.R. Jordan**  
and Miss W.J.A. Nash

The engagement is announced between Mark, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Jordan, of Northwood, Middlesex, and Wendy Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Keith Nash, of Little Gransden, Cambridgeshire.

**Mr D.J.L. Milner**  
and Miss K.J. Williams

The engagement is announced between David, eldest son of Mr Gerald Milner, of Shoreham, Sussex, and Miss Yveline Williams, of Hove, Sussex, and Karen, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Williams, of Ivybridge, Devon.

## Birthdays today

Mr A.M. Allen, former chairman, UKAEA, 68; Mr Gordon Banks, footballer, 55; Professor Sir Roy Calne, surgeon, 62; Mr Anthony Cripps, QC, 79; General Sir David Fraser, 59; Lady Oppenheimer, 59; Sir John Fridesau, banker, 81; Sir Albert Robinson, company director, 77; Professor A.H.R. Rowe, former Dean of Dental Studies, United Medical and Dental Schools of Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals, 67; the Duke of Somerset, 40; Lord Terrington, 77; Sir David Wilcock, former director, Royal College of Music, 73; Mr Clifford Williams, theatrical director, 66.

**Mr M.C. Nutt**  
and Miss R.A. Dho

The engagement is announced from Toronto, Canada, between Michael, younger son of Mr Thomas Nutt, of Bedford, and Mrs Hannah Denton, of Harrold, Bedfordshire, and Rebecca, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Charles R. Dho, of Merrick Square, London.

**Mr E.K. Piamin**  
and Miss E. Murdoch

The engagement is announced between Elinor, son of Dr and Mrs A.H. Raper, of Hushwaite, North Yorkshire, and Elizabeth, only daughter of the late Dr A.G. Calley and of Mrs E.M. Calley, of Wenvoe, South Glamorgan.

**Mr J.P. Raper**  
and Miss E.S. Calley

The engagement is announced between John, only son of Dr and Mrs A.H. Raper, of Hushwaite, North Yorkshire, and Elizabeth, only daughter of the late Dr A.G. Calley and of Mrs E.M. Calley, of Wenvoe, South Glamorgan.

**Mr L.N. Rhodin**  
and Miss N.E.J. Henderson

The engagement is announced between Lindsay, son of Professor and Mrs T.N. Rhodin, of Ithaca, USA, and Emma, daughter of Mr E.M. Henderson, of Paris, and Mrs R.A. Henderson, of Wembleton, London.

**Mr D.G. Warren**  
and Miss H.J. Alston

The engagement is announced between Dominic, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Perry Warren, of Crediton, Devon, and Heather, elder daughter of the late Mr Michael Alston and of Mrs Alston, of Ide Hill, Kent.

**Mr A.E.H. White de Groot**  
and Miss S.C. Hardie-Bick

The engagement is announced between Alexander, son of Mr and Mrs Christopher White, of Chateau d'Houthulst, Houthulst, Belgium, and Susan, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Hardie-Bick, of Ridley, Kent.



Blak midwinter: dusk envelops trees in a blanket of mist on a day of frost and ice near Thetford, Norfolk, as the year draws to a close

## The night sky in January

BY MICHAEL J. HENDRIE  
ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT

MERCURY begins the month as a morning star but is already closing with the Sun. After superior conjunction on the 23rd it moves into the evening sky. However, it will remain too near the Sun for observation during January but will be much better situated in the evening sky during the second half of February.

Venus is a brilliant -4.4 magnitude object in the southwestern sky after sunset. It reaches greatest eastern elongation (47 deg) on the 19th, setting more than four hours after the Sun. The crescent Moon will be above the planet on the 26th/27th.

Mars is at its closest to the Earth on the 3rd and at opposition on the 7th. The -1.4 magnitude planet will be retrograding (moving westward) through Gemini. The full Moon will be to the south on the 7th/8th.

Jupiter is in the constellation Virgo and a few degrees south of the celestial equator. The -2.1 magnitude planet is stationary on

the 29th when it will rise soon after 22h 30m. The last quarter Moon will be to the south on the 13th/14th.

Saturn is in Capricornus and after dark early in the month. It is approaching conjunction with the Sun (February 9) and will set soon after the Sun by the 31st.

Uranus and Neptune are in Sagittarius and are in conjunction with the Sun on the 8th so will not be observable in January.

The Moon: first quarter, 1d 04h; full Moon, 8d 13h 55m; last quarter, 15d 04h; new Moon, 22d 18h; first quarter, 30d 23h.

Sunrise on the 1st is at 16h 00m and on the 31st at 16h 45m while sunset is at 03h 08m and 07h 40m on the same dates.

Astronomical twilight ends at 18h 05m and 18h 45m early and late in the month and begins again at 06h 05m and 05h 45m.

The Earth is at perihelion, its closest to the Sun on the 4th.

Algo, the eclipsing variable star in Perseus, fades from 2.1 to 3.4 magnitude every 69 hours, taking about five hours to fade and

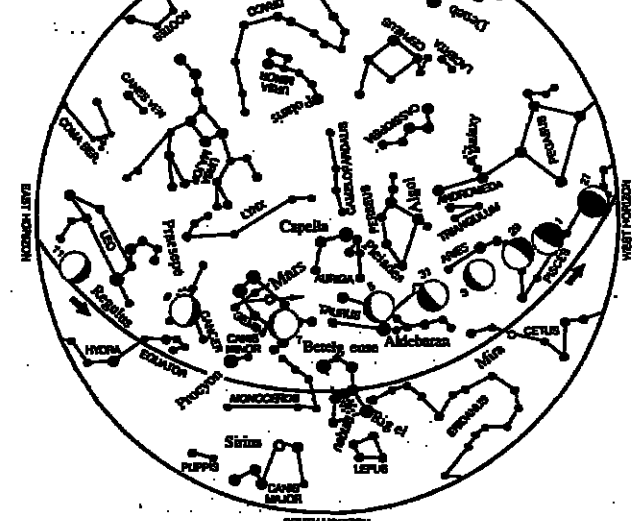
another five hours to recover normal brightness. It can be seen this January when near its faintest about the following times: 3d 01h, 5d 32h, 8d 19h, 23d 03h, 25d 23h and 28d 20h.

Calculations using the most recent observations of comet Swift-Tuttle, which was in our evening sky during October-November, put the likely perihelion date for the next return as July 11, 2126. This date would make it very unlikely that a collision with the Earth could occur within the next thousand years. However, the comet should be much brighter in 2126 than in 1992.

Collisions with as yet undiscovered objects are, of course, still possible. The passage of their light through the atmosphere not only dims faint objects but objects like the planets, showing very fine detail in the telescope, suffer much more from the unsteadiness of the atmosphere when viewed at low altitude. This effect can be seen with the naked eye: stars near the horizon twinkle much more than those overhead.

The orbit of Mars is not circular

and its distance from the Sun (averaging 228 million km) can vary from 249 million km to as little as 207 million km. Therefore at an opposition of Mars the distance from the Earth can vary depending on where Mars is in its orbit (the Earth's orbit is also slightly elliptical but this effect on the distance between the two planets is much smaller).



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 51.5° N on the 1st of January, 1993. It places stars from the Greenwich meridian to the west (left) and east (right) of the meridian. The stars are shown at their true positions, but for each 15 degrees of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place is east. The map should be turned so that the horizon (the line at the bottom) is facing south. The stars shown are those visible in the sky at the time of publication. The diagram is used by astronomers as a reference to the sky and is not to be used for navigation.

TEL: 071 481 4000

## PERSONAL COLUMN

FAX: 071 481 9313

This book of the law must never be off your lips: you must keep it in mind day and night so that you may diligently observe all that is written in it.  
Joshua 1:8

### BIRTHS

**BELL** - On 26th December, 1992, to Timothy and Eliza at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington.  
**BELL** - On December 24th, to Marcia Rosalind (nee Hall) and Gary Thomas, a daughter, Chilton, Norfolk.

**CARLSON** - On September 22nd, in Colorado U.S.A., to Linda (nee Marshall) and Eric, a son, Jeffrey Thomas Karlsson, a brother for Gregory and Jeremy.

**CERINUS** - On December 19th, to Patsy and William, a son, Jason Alexander, a brother to Ariana.

**COLE** - On December 24th, to Deborah (nee Lees) and Edward, a daughter, Rosemary Phillips.

**COX** - On 19th December, to Hannah (nee Jones) and David, a daughter, Hannah Elizabeth.

**GILBERT** - On December 25th, to Charlesworth and Stuart, a daughter, Eleanor Claire.

**GORDON LEWIS** - On Christmas Eve, to Kate and Edward, a daughter, Rosie Smoller.

**GURDON** - On December 23rd, to Ashley (nee Roberts) and Mark, a daughter, Ruby Lawson.

**LEONARD** - On December 21st, to Catherine (nee Wardley) and Hugh, a daughter, Holly Catherine, a sister for James.

**PUGH** - On December 17th, to Katharine (nee Meggs) and Simon, a daughter, Sophie Brereton Katharine.

**REID** - On December 23rd, 1992, to Maureen (nee Reynolds) and Gary, a son, Kenneth Clyde Reid.

**SMITH** - On December 19th, to Maureen (nee Reynolds) and Gary, a son, Kenneth Clyde Reid.

**STRYCHARZ** - On December 27th, to Maria Ann, a daughter, Maria Ann Kazimierz.

**THEAKSTON** - On December 18th, to Julia (nee Reed) and Tim, a daughter, Sophie Eleanor, a sister for James.

**TURNER** - On Christmas Eve, to Frances (nee Lacey) and John, two daughters, Sophie Joan and Imogen Frances.

**WATSON** - On December 25th, to Julie and Mark, a daughter, Holly Love Grandparents.

**WILLIAMS** - On December 29th, to Janet and Stephen, a daughter, Christina Jane.

### GOLDEN ANNIVERSARIES

**FRANKHAM** - Harold to Margaret (nee Annet) at All Saints Church, Barry, on December 30th 1942.

### DEATHS

**ARMSTRONG** - Edward William Armstrong, 94, died at home, 17 Riverside, London, on December 29th.

**BAIRD** - On December 25th, 1992, peacefully in his 90th year, Major George Henry Williams, of the Highlanders, died at home, 17 Riverside, London, on December 25th.

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### DEATHS

**GLAZEBROOK** - On 26th December, Hugh de St Sever, Merchant, M.A., Beloved aged 90, of St Lawrence, Jersey, died at home, 17 Riverside, London, on December 26th.

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## OBITUARIES

## LIEUTENANT-GENERAL SIR EDWARD HOWARD-VYSE

Lieutenant-General Sir Edward Howard-Vyse, KBE, CBE, MC, DL, a member of the British Olympic equestrian team in 1936 and the GOC-in-C Western Command from 1961 to 1964, died on December 26 aged 87. He was born on November 27, 1905.

"Ted" Howard-Vyse was one of the leading equestrians of his generation, a son of a Gunner family and an outstanding horseman. He was the son of Lieutenant-Colonel Cecil Howard-Vyse of Langton Hall, Malton, Yorkshire; and was commissioned, like his father, into the Royal Regiment of Artillery in 1925 after being educated at Wellington College and the Royal Military Academy, Woolwich.

His career, which was almost entirely confined to artillery appointments, started in India and was initially dominated by his excellence as a horseman. He came home in 1932. After a year on the staff of the Gunners' Riding Establishment at Woolwich, he was posted to the prestigious Army School of Equestrianism at Weedon. Such was his prowess in all equestrian sports that he was selected for the British Olympic equestrian team. He was riding Blue Steel, an army remount, when the team won the Olympic bronze medal in 1936. He went on to win the Daily Mail Gold Cup for showjumping at the Horse of the Year Show at Olympia in 1937.

He should by then have been working for the staff college exam, but had no wish to do so because it would have interfered with what he



considered real soldiering — regimental duty and horsemanship. In consequence, he was not staff trained, but he was one of those quiet, modest men, who have a concealed determination to succeed and excel at whatever they

undertake without appearing to try. Indeed, he was a perfectionist and he enjoyed passing on his skills to others, always with great charm and courtesy.

"Ted," said one of his contemporaries, "was top of everything, never lost his temper and got things done by auto suggestion — a marvellous chap and a great companion, of whom no one could ever say anything bad." In brief, he was a man of total integrity and great modesty.

When the second world war broke out, he went with the BEF to France in September 1939 as the Adjutant of the 53rd Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment. He survived Dunkirk and was posted to the Mediterranean where he fought throughout the desert war and the Italian campaign, commanding in succession 57th Light Anti-Aircraft Regiment, 14th Royal Horse Artillery and 1st Royal Horse Artillery. He was then posted to the 30th Field Regiment, which was disbanded and fought as infantry during the Communist rebellion in Athens. He was awarded the MC while supporting 5th Indian Brigade literally "on the road to Damascus" during the British invasion of Syria in June 1941.

After the war he commanded 1st Royal Horse Artillery for a second time in Palestine and the Suez Canal zone before returning home to become Commander Royal Artillery (CRA) of the 49th Armoured Division (TA) as a brigadier in November 1949. Two years later he took over as CRA of 7th Armoured Division in Germany at the time when the Korean War

brought the British Army of the Rhine to a high state of alert. Respected for the depth of his artillery experience and the soundness of his military judgment, he was appointed Commandant of the School of Artillery in 1953; Major-General Royal Artillery, of Northern Army Group in 1956; and Director Royal Artillery at the War Office in 1959.

Unusually for an officer, who had not served outside his own arm and was not staff trained, Howard-Vyse was promoted to GOC-in-C Western Command in 1961 as a lieutenant-general. He proved a highly successful and popular army commander. His blatant honesty of purpose, enthusiasm for soldiering and his love of horses endeared him both to the many TA units in his command and to the local people of Wales and the western counties of England.

After his retirement in 1964, he returned to the north and devoted much of his time to the Middleton Hunt and other equestrian activities. He became Deputy Lieutenant of the East Riding and Kingston-upon-Hull in 1964; Vice Lord Lieutenant from 1968; and Deputy Lieutenant of North Yorkshire from 1974. Perhaps his greatest service to the community was the time, effort and enthusiasm which he gave to the Army Cadet Force Association, travelling widely and tirelessly to visit the large number of scattered units all over the country. He was its chairman from 1964 to 1974.

He is survived by his wife, Mary, two sons, one of whom followed him into the Royal Artillery, and a daughter.

## APPRECIATIONS

## The Earl of Granard



Croix des Vaillants to mark this exploit.

YOUR obituary of the Earl of Granard (December 1) tells some of the story of one of Europe's grandees without quite setting history alight as he often did.

On his own ancestry, he once produced a copy of a letter written by one of his forebears, Admiral Sir John Forbes, explaining to a friend why, of all the court martial, he alone had opposed the condemnation and death-sentence on Admiral Byng in 1757. For him the dictum "pour encourager les autres" was inadequate!

His flying skills and career were of course legendary, but they went with an innate modesty and uprightness. The two traits came together when he did once confess to "the only time in my life that I gave a bribe". The bribe in question was a plane-load of gold which he flew into Bucharest to persuade the Romanian government to release the surviving members of the Polish Air Force who had taken refuge there from the invading Germans. It worked and they were released and flew on to the Middle East. The grateful Poles decorated him with their

My last story, among many, was to be purely to a conversation to an American colleague about the absurdity of still maintaining secrecy about the "Ultra" decrypting exercise at Bletchley when Group Captain Winterbottom's book had been in print for several years. Both he and our American friend turned out to have been of the few who were privy to the war-winning exercise and, never having been debriefed, still had to keep their lips sealed.

Edward Wright

## TOM JOBE

Tom Jobe, dancer and choreographer, died in London of an AIDS-related illness on December 8 aged 39. He was born in Las Vegas on February 6, 1953.

WHEN Tom Jobe came to Britain, aged 21, he established himself quickly as one of the most strikingly beautiful and individual dancers around. Tall and narrow, with vividly bright red hair, he would have been noticed for his looks alone, but to these were added a highly distinctive personality and an overwhelming grace of movement. He had already begun to dance against some family opposition — while at the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, and during a further year studying at the London Contemporary Dance School, he worked with several small groups, most notably for a season at the 1975 Edinburgh Festival in a group which was given the title Exemplary Dance Company, because it was meant as a one-off venture. However Exemplary proved so successful that it

resumed as a continuing company. Jobe's performances in two of his works contributed forcefully to that success, but he did not stay with the company, moving on quickly to a place in the London Contemporary Dance Theatre. All the company choreographers wanted to make roles for him, for the sake of his quick, intelligent understanding of their intentions as well as his physical gifts.

Robert Cohan showed him as a frightening totem figure, freezing all the affection out of a relationship, in *Ice*. Michael Borge had him playing a very central role in *Solo Ride*, taking his entrance on a bicycle and dancing with a dummy of himself as well as with a real partner. Siobhan Davies's *Sphinx* and — with special success — Richard Alston's *Rainbow* Bandit showed contrasting aspects of Jobe's dance style, flowing and swift.

Jobe also began to make some work for himself, including a promising *Dance For Four* to a Bach violin sonata. He was an exemplary company member: polite, hard-working, quick in learning his

parts. But his nature was not conformist: he was unafraid to cut a highly unconventional figure, on or off stage, and he seemed avid for new experience. After only four years he went back to America for a time where he helped found a company to stage an off-Broadway science fiction musical which he directed, choreographed and performed in.

Returning to LCDT in 1981, he created the role of Death in Cohan's *Dances of Love and Death*, playing one scene as a white-haired transvestite creature in stockings, his heels and leather hose. Over the next few years he contributed further works to the company's repertoire, most strikingly two which were apparently influenced by the pop, rock and club scene. *Run Like Thunder* (1983) had a computer-generated score by Barrington Pheloung and a cast indulging in swift, loose disco-like movement wearing Paul Dart's trendy version of sports gear. But a year later, with the same collaborators, *Rite Electric* showed the fun turned sour in a disco version of hell where an on-stage

saxophonist was dressed like a stormtrooper and the dancers wore bondage gear.

Jobe's dancing career took a new direction when he created the role of Electra, the electric train, in Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical, *Starlight Express*, with its roller-skating dancers hurtling round the theatre. Earning a bigger salary than he had ever enjoyed before, Jobe managed to put up with the boredom he felt at having to repeat the same role night after night. He later went on to a featured role as the Arbitrator in Tim Rice's *Chess*. He made a television series in Germany, acting and singing as well as dancing, and a pop video for Tina Turner.

But he did not desert the modern dance field and continued to create dances for many small companies, eventually becoming the artistic director of Phoenix Dance Company on a caretaker basis while they were looking for a permanent leader.

Tom Jobe married but made no secret of his primarily homosexual orientation, supporting gay causes and AIDS charities with energy.



## Sir Robert Shone

SIR Robert Shone (obituary, December 16) was with the National Economic Development Council for four years; his career with the steel industry lasted 22 years.

After his wartime service with the Iron and Steel Control he became Economic Director of the British Iron and Steel Federation, working closely with its independent chairman, the formidable Sir Andrew Duncan, a former minister, MP for the City of London and a member of the Court of the Bank of England. The Federation was by far the most powerful single industry trade association. Shone played a leading role in formulating price policy (which he saw as an application of long-term marginal costing) and, with Dr T. P. Colclough, in framing the industry's first postwar development plan, which was later published as a government white paper. His close involvement in policy brought him into contact with the BISF's president, then Sir Ellis Hunter, chairman of Dorman Long.

Shone wrote a number of articles about the industry and always inspired the article for the monthly digest of steel statistics. The prospect of nationalisation was a major concern and Shone largely directed the publicity to counter this threat. The Iron and Steel Board represented a measure of public control, with powers deriving from the pre-war Import Duties Advisory Committee's concern with price and development regulation as the price the industry paid for the protective tariff. He was an obvious choice for the reconstituted board.

There was much interest in the greater use of home iron in iron-making. An idea popularised by D. L. Burn, then the industrial correspondent of *The Times*, Shone satisfied himself that both on grounds of one reserves and deteriorating quality this was not a realistic option.

Shone left the steel industry with considerable regret, but as a champion of free enterprise there was clearly no role for him in a nationalised industry.

Denis Falvey

## PERSONAL

## PUBLIC NOTICES

TO THE Clerk to the Licensing Justices for the Licensing District of the County of London, the County of Middlesex, the County of Surrey, the County of Kent, the County of Essex, the County of Herefordshire, the County of Gloucestershire, the County of Wiltshire, the County of Dorset, the County of Devon, the County of Cornwall, the County of Somerset, the County of Shropshire, the County of Staffordshire, the County of Warwickshire, the County of Worcestershire, the County of Herefordshire, the County of Gloucestershire, the County of Wiltshire, the County of Dorset, the County of Devon, the County of Cornwall, the County of Somerset, the County of Shropshire, the County of Staffordshire, the County of Warwickshire, the County of Worcestershire, the County of Herefordshire, the County of Gloucestershire, the County of Wiltshire, the County of Dorset, the County of Devon, the County of Cornwall, the County of Somerset, the County of Shropshire, the County of Staffordshire, the County 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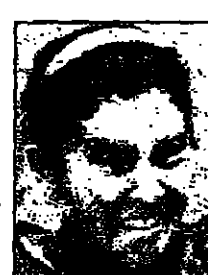
## BUSINESS

City experts look into the crystal ball for 1993



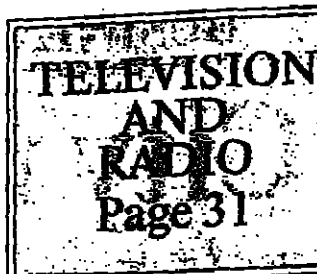
## MEDIA 26

Classic success: radio station that took on the BBC



## SPORT 27-32

Peter Ball dips into the 1992 store of sporting quotes



# THE TIMES

# 2

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30 1992

### BUSINESS TODAY

#### BARGAIN HUNT



Bargain hunters finally enticed on to the high street could do the economy more good by turning into Acadia Avenue. **Comment, page 19**

#### PEP PILL

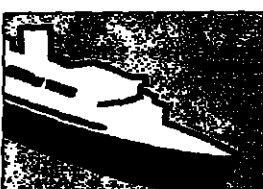
Shares in Glaxo soared yesterday on news that American authorities had approved its migraine wonder-drug. **Stock market, page 20**

#### PARTY WOLVES



Roger Palmer, of Kleinwort Benson, brought two of his friendly wolves to the office party last week. **City Diary, page 19**

#### BIG FLOAT



Kvaerner, the Norwegian industrial group, is to build a \$200 million cruise liner for the Japanese. **Page 20**

US dollar 1.5030 (-0.0300)  
German mark 2.4337 (-0.0071)  
Exchange index 79.0 (-0.5)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share 2178.8 (+13.2)  
FT-SE 100 2847.8 (+20.3)  
New York Dow Jones 3345.96 (+12.70)\*  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 17285.64 (+97.02)

London: Bank Base: 7%  
3-month interbank: 7-7.5%  
3-month eligible bills: 6-6.5%  
US: Prime Rate: 6%  
Federal Funds: 3-3.5%  
3-month Treasury bills: 3.21-3.19%  
30-year bonds: 103-103.5

London: New York  
C: \$1.5103 C: \$1.5135  
D: \$1.5143 D: \$1.5175  
S: \$1.5188 S: \$1.5220  
F: \$1.5220 F: \$1.5250  
Y: \$1.5250 Y: \$1.5280  
C: Index 79.0 C: Index 79.0  
D: Index 79.0 D: Index 79.0  
S: Index 79.0 S: Index 79.0  
F: Index 79.0 F: Index 79.0  
Y: Index 79.0 Y: Index 79.0  
London Foreign market close

London: FTSE 100  
AM 3332.50 PM 3332.50  
Close 3332.50-3332.50  
219.80-219.82  
New York: Comex 3 332.25-332.75\*

Brent (Jan) \$18.10/bbl

RFB: 139.7 November (1987-100)  
\* Denotes midday trading price

## Buoyant stores pull shares to record finish

BY PHILIP PANGALOS AND COLIN NARBROUGH

SHARES in London soared to new highs in an end-of-year bull run, with little to halt investors' enthusiasm after the Christmas break.

Reports of a record-breaking start to the winter sales boosted store shares, prompting talk of a return of consumer confidence. A premium on futures also helped share prices in the cash market to surge further.

Most activity occurred in the futures market. Price rises were often exaggerated by technical factors. Market makers attempted to keep their books square as their year end approaches. A senior trader pointed out that in 1991, the equity market saved its biggest rise until New Year's eve.

More signs of economic recovery in America, following another sharp rise in the US consumer confidence index, boosted afternoon dealing. The strong start on Wall Street boosted sentiment in London. The FT-SE 100 index rose 20.3 points to a record closing high of 2,847.8, having touched a new all-time trading high of 2,848.9 in late dealing. The market has risen by 14.2 per cent in the course of the year. In the foreign exchange markets, the dollar

■ The London stock market soared to a record high in light post-Christmas trading, boosted by a rising Wall Street encouraged by surging confidence in America

staged an end-of-year rally on reports of a surge in American consumer confidence and house sales.

Concern about developments in Bosnia, renewed tension in the Gulf, and the belief that German interest rates must fall soon, all helped lift the dollar. It was driven up more than two pence to a peak of DM1.6235, before easing back.

The American Conference Board index of consumer confidence jumped almost 13 points this month to 78.3 per cent, much more than most forecasters had expected. The index is now at its highest for over 18 months.

US house sales figures further reinforced confidence. According to the National Association of Realtors, sales of existing homes jumped by 5.76 per cent in November, its biggest monthly increase for almost six years.

Despite hopes of revived confidence among British consumers, the pound fell 2.5 cents against the dollar, closing at \$1.5070, also losing about two thirds of a pence

to DM2.4337. The trade-weighted index was 0.5 points down at 79. Despite speculation that the French franc is about to come under pressure within the exchange-rate mechanism, the currency closed at a three-week high against the mark.

■ The Unit Trust Association said deep cuts in building society deposit account rates had resulted in strong sales of lower-risk, fixed-interest and money market funds in November. (Sara McConnell writes)

This helped to boost gross unit trust sales to £981 million. The month saw an overall net funds inflow of £258 million, the best since September 1991. Funds under management reached a record high last month of £62 billion.

Gross sales for international fixed-interest funds totalled £83 million in November, while money market funds brought in £59 million and UK gilt-edged funds £29 million. The £171 million gross total is five times the £34 million these funds achieved in November 1991.

## Directors urge rate cuts

BY ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

INDUSTRY'S efforts to pull Britain out of recession are being hampered by rising unemployment, a huge government deficit and a balance of payments shortfall, says the Institute of Directors.

Despite a slight recovery in business confidence during the past two months, a further cut in interest rates is needed to promote recovery, it said. "We do not yet have the economic conditions to pull out of recession," Peter Morgan, the IoD's director-general said, after unveiling the institute's latest business opinion survey. His judgment is a

sub to Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, who has provoked criticism from opposition MPs after urging Britons to be proud of the nation's manufacturing achievements.

Mr Morgan urged the Chancellor to look at the "broader context" and the Confederation of British Industry said that industry faced a massive "productivity gap" compared with overseas rivals.

Business leaders say that the best of British manufacturing matches any company in the world for quality of product,

workforce, investment and innovation, but that too much of the rest is far short of world competitive standards.

The CBI said: "What is important about the Chancellor's statement is that he now recognises the importance of manufacturing for wealth creation." Mr Morgan said structural problems in the British economy made celebrations about the strength of industry premature. "There is not enough economic activity to provide the employment we all look for, or pay for the public spending we all expect, or pay for the imports we all want."

The IoD's end of year survey shows a recovery in confidence, but only to levels at the same time last year. Mr Morgan welcomed the rise, but said the last study had been taken soon after the pound was forced from the European exchange-rate mechanism, when confidence was low.

In the latest study, 38 per cent of directors questioned said they were more optimistic about the economy, compared with 10 per cent in October. The proportion of those who were less confident fell from 67 per cent to 36 per cent.



IoD gloom: Peter Morgan and policy chief Ann Robinson

## Lords leap to close in on Hanson

BY ROSS TIEMAN

LORD Hanson's standing as the businessman most admired in Britain's boardrooms has slumped sharply for the second year running.

Two long-distance performers with a genius for international alliances, Lords King and Weinstock, are challenging the 80s takeover act for the title of Britain's most impressive industrialist.

The findings, uncovered in a Mori poll, reveal just how strongly sentiment in Britain's boardrooms has changed since 1990. Then, Lord Hanson was named as Britain's most impressive businessman by 56 per cent of Mori's sample of chairmen, chief executives and other senior directors drawn from Britain's top 500 companies.

In the latest poll, based on 147 face-to-face interviews earlier this year, he was named by only 16 per cent of respondents. Joint second, with 14 per cent of the votes each, were a pair of business-

Q: Who is the most impressive industrialist in Britain?

	87	88	89	90	91	92	Change
Lord Hanson	56	29	32	56	22	16	-40
Lord Weinstock	6	2	9	10	3	14	+11
Lord King	5	7	13	8	3	8	+12
Sir Denis Henderson	0	2	0	0	1	8	+7
Sir Allen Shappard	0	0	0	0	0	7	+7
Sir Graham Day	0	0	0	0	0	9	+9
Sir Ian MacLaurin	0	0	0	0	0	8	+8
Sir Paul Gilman	0	0	0	0	0	3	+3
Sir Anthony Tennant	0	0	0	0	0	3	+3
Richard Branson	0	0	0	0	0	4	+4
Sir Colin Marshall	0	0	0	0	0	4	+4
Sir Owen Green	11	4	22	9	4	4	-6
Lord Sainsbury	8	3	0	3	3	4	+1
Sir Christopher Hogg	8	7	4	3	3	4	+1
Sir John Harvey-Jones	30	21	4	8	5	2	-1

Source: Mori

men who could scarcely be more different in style.

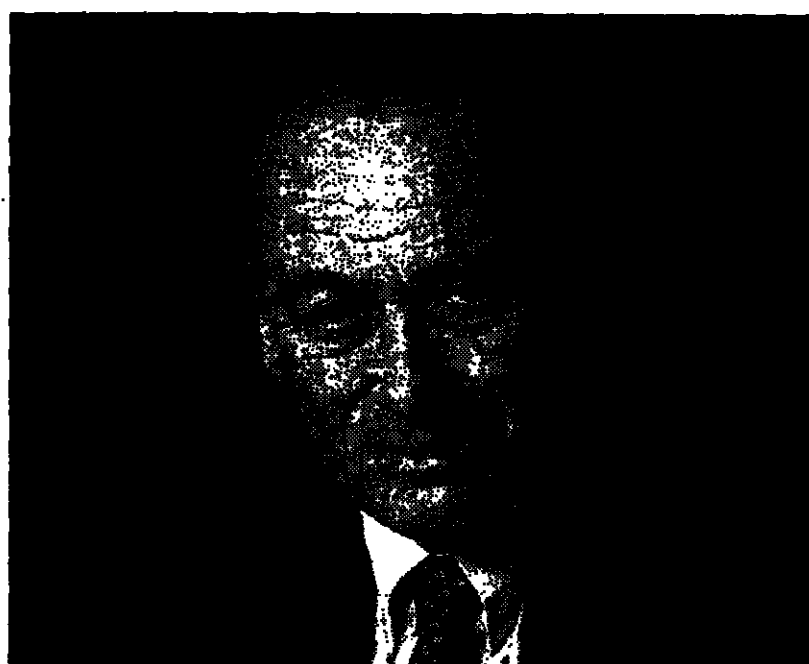
Lord Weinstock, managing director of the General Electric Company, was widely criticised during the 1980s for sitting on a cash mountain and failing to produce spectacular profit growth. Despite a respectable share of the vote during 1989 and 1990, in

1991 he won plaudits from just 3 per cent of his peers. But GEC's end-of-decade web of international joint ventures and the rock-solid performance of group profits now appear to have provoked a reassessment of his talents.

Lord King, the chairman of British Airways, is another consistent performer whose

Sign of the times: The 1993 single European market means discarding the old green and red signs at Dover's Eastern Docks custom hall, although Britain will still operate border checks for security purposes, under an unofficial agreement with the European Commission. But January 1, 1993, the official date for the single market, is expected to be an anti-climax. For many, the increase in duty-free allowances will be the most noticeable change. The most important of the physical and legal changes, abolition of border controls and formalities for traders, have various implications for business. European View looks at them on page 19.

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Comment, page 19







## For real bargains, try Acacia Avenue

The grip of gloom is so firm that retailers seem shocked by the stampede of shoppers to post-Christmas sales. They should not have been. People have been looking for weeks but are now so cost-conscious and canny that they did not want to pay through the nose for goods they wanted to buy but which did not have a gift deadline. Even pre-Christmas sales did not fool those who preferred to wait for the real thing. Forecasters must now wonder how long this binge will last and whether it shows a change of mood. If people really think that price discounts are now as big as they will ever be, and are prepared to buy, they might soon go out and buy houses and get the British economy moving.

No one in the housing business wants to look a fool by predicting yet another recovery that fails to happen. This distorting filter makes green shoots look blackened by frost but a more hopeful outlook is hard to suppress. The Halifax Building Society beams continuing lack of confidence. Its review still predicts that the number of house deals will rise by 15 per cent, or about 165,000, in 1993 "while house prices should begin their recovery in the second half of the year". Mike Blackburn, chief executive of the Leeds, tries even harder to be downbeat in his new year message, seeing "a long hard winter" for the housing market. He cannot hide his optimism that a good summer will follow. Emphasising all the usual caveats, he admits: "We believe house prices generally have stabilised and will show some signs of an upturn, accompanied by increased market activity".

This guarded cheer rests on calculations of how much cheaper it is to buy a home thanks to falling interest rates and lower house prices, especially in the South-East. To take a striking Halifax example, the monthly cost of an 80 per cent mortgage on an average Luton semi might now be £300, against £370 five years ago and £620 at the peak in 1989. Allowing for rises in average earnings, the relative cost to the family budget has fallen nearly half since 1987 and by two thirds since the height of the boom. That does not help people fearing for their job. Anyone fit to take on a mortgage will also recall that interest rates can go up as well as down. Those who can afford to, with a suitable margin for error, should ape the high street bargain hunters, turn smartly into Acacia Avenue and not bother to delay any longer.

The Halifax, like many others, thinks the market's pump still needs priming, especially for those with negative equity in an existing home. They could be helped by a scheme to commute future tax relief into a cash grant. This would also enable lenders to avoid making their own judgment on house prices by lending a smaller percentage. Even more ingenious schemes would concentrate interest tax relief on first time buyers. Think again. Such moves create future distortions and bottlenecks. Talk about Budget aids itself damages the housing market by giving potential buyers yet another reason to wait.

## The age of age

Recession has undone a generation of dynamic ventures. They need no more graphic epitaph than the latest poll of top directors. Asked to pick the most impressive businessman, they again chose Lord Hanson. Coming up on the rails were Lords King and Weinstock. They are all truly impressive, but all comfortably qualified to draw their old age pension. Several others who featured on the list have actually retired from the companies they made great. Only Richard Branson of a younger generation reached the top dozen and he, notably, does not have to justify his financial performance in public. The good news for coming businessmen: there is plenty of room at the top.

# The single market finally arrives on the arm of Euro-businessman

Wolfgang Münchau says the main benefit of Europe's single market will be to force business to change attitudes

January 1, 1993, the official landmark date for the single European market, will be a huge anti-climax, and a good thing too. History has rarely passed a kind judgment on Big Bang and similar upheavals, designed to revolutionise the way we live, work, or trade. The real significance of the single market lies not in what happens on the day, but in the changes it will bring over a period of time. These changes began some while ago, and there are more to come.

Politically, the Single European Act of 1985, the constitutional foundation of the single market, was one of the high points of Euro-federalism. The most important constitutional aspect of project 1992, or rather 1993, is the centralisation and harmonisation of the rules that govern the markets.

In practice, that means not merely common safety standards but, less impressively, disputes over sausages and prawn-cocktail crisps. As Peter Sutherland, the former Irish competition commissioner, recently remarked, a single market is not merely centralist by intent but by default. Subsidarity, while a fine concept in principle, would defeat the very purpose of a single market.

With the help of majority voting and the fearsome determination of Martin Bangemann, the European Community single market commissioner, the ambitious project ran pretty much to schedule. The legislative process of the single market was as smooth as could reasonably have been expected: most of the 300 directives have now passed into national law.

But much more important is whether the single market will live up to its economic promises. The economic theory behind the enlargement of markets and the reduction of direct and indirect trade barriers is well-established and mostly undisputed. Most would gain, few would lose, and the whole Community would be better off as a result.

The immediate reality is different. Come January 1, few people will notice any difference in their lives — apart, perhaps, from the massively increased duty-free allowances. Most of Europe is in recession, led by Britain, where unemployment is approaching 3 million. Germany will also be in recession and will still not have a clue about how to manage unification. France's franc fort policy will continue to cripple the economy and keep unemployment high.

Compare today's sobriety with the Euro-enthusiasm of six years ago. Then, the Coochini report forecast that the single market would have a



Dive and drink duty free limits within the Community will become almost meaningless from Friday

measurably positive effect on the Community's gross domestic product because of the physical removal of trade barriers and, much less convincingly, because of "economies of scale" — a much-abused concept that constantly seems to underestimate the impact of technology on smaller scale production. One much-quoted prediction was that the single market would result in savings of 200 billion euros (£160 billion) for the Community.

The attempt to provide a quantitative prediction of the impact of "1992" is fraught with dangers, not least because it could raise unrealistically high expectations. It is also a mistake to focus too much on a particular date, such as the January 1 deadline, or on mechanistic and legal change, as opposed to the overall economic effects.

The other point is perhaps less obvious. The physical and legal change are by no means insignificant. Number of of them will even take place on the day itself, including the most important of all — the abolition of border controls and formalities for traders. This will have all sorts of implications, and is essentially what the rest of the 300 directives are all about. Incidentally, the border control

issue also affects Britain — which, however, will continue to operate some border checks, essentially for security and law-and-order purposes, under a recent unofficial agreement with the commission.

The most important implication of the abolition of border controls is indirect tax harmonisation — witness the rise in German and Luxembourg value added tax rates to the agreed minimum EC rate of 15 per cent — and a new regime for administering VAT for intra-EC trade.

For most people, the increase in duty-free allowances will be the most noticeable change. In practical terms, people can from now on shop around virtually as they please, and there are no limits for personal consumption. Otherwise, the limits are 90 litres of wine, ten litres of spirits and 110 litres of beer, plus 800 cigarettes and 200 cigars, with lung cancer warnings now available in foreign languages.

There will also be genuinely important changes of course, especially in banking and insurance which, for the first time, will operate in a European market. A bank that is authorised in one EC country is automatically entitled to operate throughout the

EC. Competition between European insurers will also increase. The new regime will still fall short of a genuine single market, although customers will be given greater choice than is available at present.

Inevitably, there are many technical changes, mostly related to standards and health and safety regulations. The gamut of directives includes the mundane, the obscure and the scurrilous. There are directives on pornography ("public morality"), and there is even a directive for the "protection of animals at the time of slaughter". And, yes, this includes horses.

All this, and much more, will actually happen on January 1. But far more important than these events themselves is the way in which industry and national regulators react to them. A right is of little value unless exercised; an obligation meaningless unless policed.

A high level committee chaired by Mr Sutherland recently added its own concerns about the expected reality of the single market. It concluded that the harmonisation of European rules had probably outstripped the regulators' ability to police them. Breaches will be commonplace, it suggested, and the commission and national govern-

ments will face an uphill battle to secure compliance. European legislation, it seems, is in danger of falling victim to its own success.

But perhaps the most important aspect of the single market is the way in which industry has anticipated the changes: gradually, without fanfares and deadlines, without anyone realising what was happening. This would suggest that, in economic terms, the single market's most important effects have occurred already.

Japanese investment in Britain, which accounts for two thirds of Japan's total investment in Europe, is one example of the power of changed expectations. The scale of Japanese investment was to some extent fuelled by fears over Fortress Europe, whether these fears were justified or not.

To a limited degree, production has been reshuffled inside the community itself. The increase in cross-border mergers, though it fell short of wilder expectations, reflected companies' recognition of the need to produce nearer to their customers.

One of the biggest setbacks so far has been the Swiss No vote to the European Economic Area, which would have extended the single market to the seven EFTA nations. The EEA will now miss its scheduled January 1 start date and will then have to go ahead without Switzerland.

In its single market legislative programme, the commission has also had to accept compromises, such as a delay in the abolition of duty-free shops, the most obvious symbol of a non-single market, until 1999. There will no doubt be other setbacks.

Equally, there can be no doubt that the six-year build-up to the single market has already made businesses in Europe more European in outlook. A survey from European Marketing Information earlier this month concluded that almost half the respondents, which were large international advertisers, felt the single market would make little difference because the companies already operated on a pan-European basis. The most pessimistic respondents were airlines, and tobacco companies worried about tobacco advertising bans.

One corporate response to the single market was centralisation of marketing. In the survey, 81 per cent of respondents said they had centralised their European marketing. The study says that "those who are most advanced in this, such as the leading international companies in the automotive sector, now have products, brand names and, increasingly, advertising campaigns that are already pan-European".

The extent to which the single market affects industry will depend on the sectors concerned. Differences in taste will always remain a barrier. There will be no single market in haggis, for example.

If the single market project has one lasting achievement, it will be the emergence, not of the Brussels regulator, but of the European businessman.

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

### Mercy drive to Sarajevo

ONE person we are delighted to see back at his desk this week is Charles Macleod Matthews, the Panmure Gordon salesman who set off at the start of the month as a truck driver in a convoy taking food and medical aid to Sarajevo. Macleod Matthews, formerly with the Royal Dragons, took five days to arrive in Bosnia, including a bizarre detour through Munich to pick up some detained rascals. He then encountered many of the problems aid workers are facing.

"There were 15 road checks by various nationalist groups in Bosnia before we arrived at Sarajevo," he says. "We were shelled, and the army road over the mountains was a sea of mud." Most frustrating, however, were the difficulties of distributing aid on arrival. "We took some aid to refugee centres direct, but at Sarajevo we were told we had to give a third of it to the Serbs as bribes to get the rest to the Red Cross in Sarajevo. I was deeply suspicious, and we gave all our aid to the United Nations instead, but our group split in two over the decision and my party ended up coming home alone without translators or guides."

Macleod Matthews says he would go back — "don't tell my mother" — but now knows the frustrations. "Our supplies got to the right place but the whole aid thing is run on a shoestring, badly organized and very complicated," he says.



Party paws: Roger Palmer with his double act

### Howling success

SEEING is believing. For years, clients of Kleinwort Benson have been hearing about "uncle Roger" and his wolves, uncle Roger being Roger Palmer, chief investment strategist. Finally, last week fund managers got a chance to see for themselves that they really exist when Palmer brought in two of his

pets from his Maidenhead farm for KB's Christmas party. The wolves have co-starred with the rich and famous before, notably with Kevin Costner in *Company of Wolves*. Our picture shows Palmer holding Denali, a Canadian timber wolf he has had since it was a puppy. "The Roub brothers, who do our catering, were going loopy at the thought of wild animals roam-

ing about, but the wolves were very well behaved," says Palmer's colleague Mark Tinker. The wolves have, fund managers will be relieved to hear, no further appearances planned. No doubt they will be "howling in" the new year.

### Media minded

ECONOMIST'S with a media bias seem to be the rage at County NatWest Securities. In the summer, CNW recruited Paul Neild, ten economics correspondent for Channel 4 news, who has formerly been one of the UK's best known economists at JBS Phillips & Drew. Now it's taking on Ian McCafferty, 34, chief international economist at Barings Securities since 1988, who previously did a stint at *The Economist* as head of statistics. Since reading economics at Durham, McCafferty has had some interesting jobs, including economist at the International Chamber of Commerce in Paris and head of economic trends at the Confederation of British Industry between 1985 and 1988. He arrives at CNW in mid-January as European equities economist.

### A small Holt

WITH their only female director, Liz Holt, 35, heavily pregnant, the corporate finance department at Robert Fleming seem determined to draw attention to the act. Its annual review has just come out, entitled 1992 — *A Pregnant Pause?* "I don't think the title was chosen intentionally to tease, but it has become a bit of a joke," says Holt. Far from

having a pregnant pause herself, Holt, who is expecting her first baby in a couple of weeks, was one of the few in the City at her desk yesterday and plans to be back at work immediately after the child is born. "I'd be bored out of my mind staying at home," she says. Fleming, in its review, is predicting a surge of mergers and acquisitions in 1993 after the dip in 1992 and Holt intends to be there when it happens.

### High hopes

IT WOULD be a rare company that shot to a premium in first dealings in the quiet week after Christmas, but some people have high hopes today of OIS International Inspection, a technical oil and energy inspection company which comes to market this morning valued at £15 million. Chaired by James Mayne, the former chairman of Flextech, the company is said to be the first combined acquisition and flotation, it currently being a subsidiary of Adia SA, the Swiss company. The arrangements have been put together by Mayne and corporate financier Stephen Goschalk — after merchant bank SG Warburg told Mayne the deal was impossible. It will be Goschalk's last deal working with Staffan Gadd, the former chairman of Midland Montagu. Gadd set up his own corporate finance boutique in 1987, but is now being forced to sell. Goschalk joins English Trust next week, with Charles Good, a fellow director at JS Gadd.

DEBRA ISAAC

### Computer industry is facing up to harsh realities of recession

From Mr N. R. Lewis  
Sir, Colin Hull draws the wrong conclusion (December 22). The computer industry is suffering from the recession; massive cuts in staffing levels have been made, and more will follow in 1993, including cuts in sales departments. The sales staff left in post are focused on the most profitable business lines, and have to consider the relatively low gross profit on computer hardware, and the relatively high cost of a sale. Mr Hull is an unfortunate victim of this trend, in that he knew exactly what he wanted, so the cost of selling to him was low; but he is not typical. As a general rule, do not expect a retailer to get excited over a single order for £6,000 worth of "tin". All retailers are seeking to

sell software and services with the hardware, as the margins are better and the likelihood of repeat business is improved. They also prefer big-value orders — don't we all?

If Mr Hull wishes to benefit from the "commodity" approach to computer hardware, he should use mail order or visit Tottenham Court Road in London. Local retailers are no longer able to provide a Rolls-Royce service at Metro prices, the recession has bitten too deeply. Some will disappear for good. The computer industry is facing the same harsh realities as other industries, and is being forced into learning how to say "no". Yours faithfully, N. R. LEWIS, 3 Mill Lane, Waltham on the Wolds, Leicestershire.

### Firm fails to seize £1m export deal

From Mr Neil Garrard  
Sir, On behalf of an Italian manufacturer we are trying to buy a specialised steel product in the UK. The contract could be worth well over £1 million a year. Of the two potential suppliers, both major steel producers, one is disqualified by lack of quality accreditation for Italy. The other has had difficulty in giving prices and even greater difficulty returning calls. We now discover that the company, including its sales department, is closed from midday on December 22 and reopens on January 5. I assume that there is absolutely no connection with the trade deficit figures published on December 22. Yours faithfully, NEIL GARRARD, Neil Garrard & Associates, 15 Drayton Gardens, SW10.

### Watchdogs watched

From Mr J. Vannack  
Sir, Existing British Gas shareholders may feel cheated by the threat of competition, and no doubt it was naughty of the Government to have encouraged them to invest under such dubious monopolistic pretences. However, as a consumer, I am totally delighted. But let us be fair, and ask the Government never to sell a monopoly, as a monopoly, ever again. Yours faithfully, J. VANNECK, 69 Barrons Way, Comberton, Cambridge.

From Mr M. J. Dawson  
Sir, Sir James McKinnon, the gas regulator, keeps British Gas in a continuous state of agitation, containing prices, forcing down prices in some

cases, and requiring divestment. He now looks to break British Gas into two companies to increase competition. A watchdog indeed. Professor Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, goes along serenely, producing amorphous reports. The

Times (December 11) described his latest report as useless. How about the two regulators exchanging jobs? Yours faithfully, M. J. DAWSON, 16 Rookery Avenue, Grimsby, South Humberside

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No	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Overseas	Chemicals	
2	Metals	Metals	
3	Metals	Metals	
4	Metals	Metals	
5	Metals	Metals	
6	Metals	Metals	
7	Metals	Metals	
8	Metals	Metals	
9	Metals	Metals	
10	Metals	Metals	
11	Metals	Metals	
12	Metals	Metals	
13	Metals	Metals	
14	Metals	Metals	
15	Metals	Metals	
16	Metals	Metals	
17	Metals	Metals	
18	Metals	Metals	
19	Metals	Metals	
20	Metals	Metals	
21	Metals	Metals	
22	Metals	Metals	
23	Metals	Metals	
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25	Metals	Metals	
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36	Metals	Metals	
37	Metals	Metals	
38	Metals	Metals	
39	Metals	Metals	
40	Metals	Metals	

Please take into account any minus signs

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If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize for a share of £1,000. 52,172 between 1.00 and 2.50p (see the Sunday Times for full details)

The winner of the Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000 on the 26/12/92 was Mr D Levy of London NW4. The winners of yesterday's game, who equally share the prize of £2,000, are Mr M Walsh of London SW17 and Mr D Jacobs of Birmingham.

1992 High Low Company Price Net Yld % P/E

## BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1	100	100	100	100	100
2	100	100	100	100	100
3	100	100	100	100	100
4	100	100	100	100	100
5	100	100	100	100	100
6	100	100	100	100	100
7	100	100	100	100	100
8	100	100	100	100	100
9	100	100	100	100	100
10	100	100	100	100	100
11	100	100	100	100	100
12	100	100	100	100	100
13	100	100	100	100	100
14	100	100	100	100	100
15	100	100	100	100	100
16	100	100	100	100	100
17	100	100	100	100	100
18	100	100	100	100	100
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## CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

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As 1997 draws ever closer, Hong Kong's Chinese are looking to England for good-value homes and investments, Christine Webb reports

# Fruitful year of the wise old monkey

Chinese horoscopes published last year forecast that good fortune would smile on property deals towards the end of 1992, the Year of the Monkey. How right they were: for Hong Kong Chinese keen to invest in the British property market at any rate. The pound's devaluation this autumn handed them an effective 15 per cent reduction on prices that were already temptingly low.

Britain is increasingly seen as a safe refuge for money by Hong Kong people keen to invest their wealth outside the territory before it is returned to the mainland in 1997, or others who want to move to Britain permanently. Residential property here now seems to be cheap compared with similar homes in the colony, while offering a good rental return.

Some businessmen buy properties in central London "blind". The less well-off come to see what is on offer, especially if they hope to get a British passport and use the flat themselves.

Larger agents such as Winkworths are offering a complete service, even collecting potential purchasers from Heathrow if necessary. "We fax and re-fax details of suitable properties to people who answer our advertisements in Hong Kong," says Simon Agace, the chairman of Winkworths. "They ask lots of questions about them, come here for five or six days, and we take them to see up to a dozen places."

Hong Kong Chinese favour new or renovated upper-floor flats with long leases priced at £200,000 to £350,000 in central London: especially Kensington, Chelsea, Fulham, Maida Vale, and St John's Wood. But Mr Agace thinks demand is expanding outwards.

"There's a dwindling supply of suitable flats, so other areas will become more attractive. These people are very price-sensitive, but everything's been 15 per cent cheaper since October. On a



Eastern premises: the sign reads "sold" in Chinese, good news for David Pretty, chairman of Barratt Southern and the company's Chiswick Place development in London

A £200,000-plus flat in a newly refurbished London block would have fetched nearer £400,000 in Hong Kong

£300,000 property, that's a saving of £45,000, which is certainly an incentive. It's already given our property market a small fillip."

Cluttons, like most London estate agents, has a representative in Hong Kong. The agency has just made a typical deal: a £200,000-plus flat in a newly refurbished block in W14 which in Hong Kong would have fetched nearer £400,000. Now Cluttons will let and manage the property for the new owner.

David Coreth, the managing director of Hamptons in Hong Kong, says his office has completed

on 38 London transactions this year, but warns that Hong Kong people are too astute to fall for the tricks of some British estate agents who offer inferior properties at inflated prices.

Developers have fed the Hong Kong appetite for new housing with some success. In the past year, Barratt sold £6 million worth of London properties to overseas buyers, most of them from Hong

Kong. Flats costing £100,000 to £125,000 have proved to be the best-sellers, but prestige developments such as the classically designed Chiswick Place in W4, where prices start at £290,000, have, according to David Pretty, chairman of the developers Barratt Southern, also sold well. At least seven units have gone to Hong Kong buyers. Elton and Kay Wan bought a two-bed flat there after it

was viewed for them by Mrs Wan's brother, who lives in London. The Wans have since moved in. "This apartment is ideal — bright, spacious and in a lovely area near schools and shops," Mrs Wan says. Half of Barratt's Hong Kong purchasers buy "blind," so the company's service includes interior design and furnishing.

But it is not likely to be as well-versed in Chinese superstition as

the Kong brothers, who have joined forces with Anthony Hickman, the Cheltenham estate agent, to sell new UK homes through the HKD group, their Hong Kong-based company.

"The Chinese go for front doors that face south, which endows a home with good *fung shui* (prosperity and fortune)," says Chun Fai Kong, whose family moved to England in the 1970s. They also like ponds, especially if eight goldfish are swimming in them for good luck. Other lucky numbers are two, three, six and nine. If the cooker faces the kitchen door it is

bad luck, as is the number four, which sounds the same as the Chinese word for death.

*Fung shui* is serious stuff. The architect of a Hong Kong bank even put the escalator at a particular angle to give good *fung shui*.

"One couple were recently interested in a building plot, but unfortunately it was number 24. They withdrew in case the four gave them bad luck," Mr Kong says. "I have another client who wants to complete a deal on Sunday because the fortune book said it was a lucky day for him. And I had a call from a woman with £100,000 in the bank that she had to spend on a property before Christmas."

Developers such as Westbury Homes, with whom Mr Kong works closely, can do little to accommodate *fung shui* beyond moving a cooker point on request.

However, Mr Kong says he is getting interest in properties throughout the country, especially in Birmingham and Manchester. Some provincial agents are testing the water, especially in towns such as Bath — the former parliamentary seat of Chris Patten, the governor of Hong Kong — an attractive alternative for British expatriates planning to return to England before 1997. They tend to go for the period country properties that abound in Somerset and Wiltshire. Cluttons, the Bath agency, says it gets a couple of enquiries a week from Hong Kong.

January 23 is the Chinese new year, and another influx of Chinese buyers is expected. Cluttons has posted 10,000 customised chopsticks to owner-occupiers in Kensington and Chelsea, together with a leaflet explaining that the agency is looking for more property to put on show. If the play falls off, the agency may well have something to crow about in 1993, the Year of the Rooster. Mr Kong, after consulting his horoscope book, says the omens are good.

## Valuers accused of selling homes short

Buyers and sellers are agreeing on a price — but sales are falling through

As if there were not enough problems in the housing market, estate agents and homeowners claim that the few buyers who are in the market are being prevented from getting loans by building society surveys because the surveys are over-cautious in their valuations. Some agents say that many valuers are setting values below prices agreed between buyers and sellers, and that this effectively wrecks transactions where buyers are borrowing up to the limit.

"Valuers are making a nominal reduction in the agreed price for the sake of it," says Edward Waterson of Carter Jonas, in York. "I recently had a house sale agreed at £100,000 and the valuation came in at £96,000, throwing a spanner in the works."

Mr Waterson is convinced that surveys are, in some cases, simply knocking 5 or 10 per cent off the agreed price because "they don't want to be accused of over-valuing in a falling market".

One of the problems is that many building societies employ valuers from outside the area, says Mark Sumray, area director of Ellis & Co, in London. "They will not know the local conditions," he says.

Another cause of the developing war of words between estate agents and valuers is



Undercut: Ed Mountfield (see case history below) saw his house's value fall dramatically

that the latter usually know the agreed price on any property they are looking at on behalf of the building society. This is not supposed to influence their judgment, of course, but even if a valuation is done impartially, the seller, the buyer and estate agent will tend to think otherwise if the valuation is less than the figure they have agreed on.

"We have been coming across low valuations quite a lot," says Mark Stewart, of the Ipswich office of Bidwells.

"Surveys are influenced by knowing the asking and agreed prices. I think that valuers should not know what the purchase price is, and should base their opinion on the evidence of comparables."

Tim Lee, a spokesman for the Royal Institution of Char-

tered Surveyors, defends the valuers and their profession: "You have to remember what a valuation is — it is a figure to advise the lender what a sensible figure is, not a full market figure. It is not what the parties agree minus a certain amount."

Naturally enough, the building societies defend the practice. "It is not in our interests to talk the market down," the Council of Mortgage Lenders says. "But we won't say that valuers are not being over-cautious, as they can be sued for giving too high a valuation."

Mr Lee says that valuers are often unable to find an indisputable figure because so little property is on the market at present. "There are so few sales it is difficult to find

comparables on which to base a professional judgment."

Legally, little can be done about a low valuation, even if both vendor and buyer think it is absurd. "The contract with the valuer will usually be with the building society, so they would have to take action," says Kaz Stepien, a solicitor.

Faced with a valuer's report giving a value slightly lower than the agreed price, the best course is calm negotiation. The only sensible option is to complain to the lender loud and long. Do not be fobbed off by the branch lender, but try to take your case to a higher level. Eventually, when recovery does come and prices stop falling, the problem should disappear of its own accord.

SALLY FORREST

### CASE HISTORY: THE HOUSE THAT COULD NOT BE REMORTGAGED

IT IS not just house sales that are being hit by low valuations. When Ed Mountfield, a financial researcher, decided to change the mortgage on his former council house he found the process of establishing the value of his house to be just as difficult.

Mr Mountfield bought his house in the East Sussex village of Mayfield at the height of the property boom, when interest rates were hitting 15 per cent. Sensibly, he avoided the major building societies and got a fixed-interest loan through an American finance house, at a rate of 11.95 per cent.

Now times have changed and interest rates have dropped below that figure. Building societies, anxious to drum up business, are offering the cheapest mortgages for years. Mr Mountfield was particularly attracted by the rate of 8.05 per cent offered by the Cheltenham and Gloucester Building Society.

The only potential problem was the

C&G's stipulation that the value of a loan be restricted to 80 per cent of the value of the property. To replace his current £45,000 mortgage directly, his house would have to be valued at least £56,500. The house had been valued at £59,000 only three months before, so Mr Mountfield was fairly confident that the house would be worth enough. So was the assistant C&G branch manager, who said that he would put an estimated value of £58,000 on the form, as this would "influence the opinion of the valuer".

So it came as a shock when the valuation of £49,500 arrived. Mr Mountfield says he was told by the C&G branch manager that the valuation used by the society was "half-way between the repossession value and the open market value" (which is not C&G official policy, a company spokesman said later).

Mr Mountfield is angry because he paid £160 for a valuation under what he regards as a false prospectus. The society

stands by its valuation, made by a staff valuer who did not know the expected valuation, consulted local estate agents for comparable sales, and stuck to the guidelines of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

"Building societies are only interested in remortgaging people with enormous equity in their house — people on the margin, like me, don't think they care," Mr Mountfield says.

Persistence can pay dividends, however, as Mr Mountfield discovered when the C&G sent another valuer round to his house recently. He estimated the house to be worth £55,000, well within striking distance of Mr Mountfield's own estimate. It was still not enough to bring him into the C&G low rate mortgage scheme, but negotiations are proceeding on a 90 per cent mortgage which Mr Mountfield says he may well end up taking. "It shows what you can do by not taking the expert's valuation for granted," he says.

Why estate agents are keeping quiet about their most spectacular successes

Room Villa, a classic grade II listed Georgian house in Fulham and considered one of the finest houses in southwest London, was sold recently for £1.3 million. The sale would normally have been newsworthy yet it went on the market without so much as a murmur: there was no advertising, no brochure. And it was sold equally discreetly.

In other instances, a foreign investor bought a house with eight bedrooms, five bathrooms, in 30 acres on a good Hampshire fishing river for nearly £2 million and no one knew: an immaculate house in 17 acres with stunning views went for £700,000; a 500-acre Berkshire estate fetched over £1 million; and a field in the north made £100,000, sold so privately that neighbouring farmers did not know of the deal.

This is the private housing market, a rare area of boom in an otherwise depressed market. It works like this: you approach an estate agent and tell him that you want to sell privately. Most agents dealing solely at the top of the market have a list of clients such as businessmen who have sold their companies or foreign buyers, from the Middle East or Hong Kong, all with cash and looking for a particular type of high quality property or estate.

The agent acts as a broker, matching the buyer and seller without anyone else knowing

## Don't let on, but this place is for sale

that the property is available. It may happen very quickly or take two or three attempts before a deal is done — usually at the normal 2-2½ per cent commission for the agent — or it may not happen at all.

So popular has the private market become that Knight Frank & Rutley's estates and country house departments discovered that 30 per cent of their deals in the past year were done privately. These were in the £1 million plus range and represented more than 50 per cent of the value of their business, with similar deals happening in London too.

Charles Ellingworth, a director of Property Vision, which buys for clients, says that 25 per cent of its business is now done privately.

The private market has always had obvious advantages

for rich, high-profile people who shun publicity, but the recession has spawned new reasons for buying and selling privately. "Some may have cash-flow problems and if the sale is known it might affect their business," says Rupert Sweeting, of Knight Frank & Rutley. "They do not want others to know. People are terrified of seeing their names in the papers or even embarrassed about selling for large amounts of money in a recession."

There is another recession-linked reason. Brian D'Arcy Clark, a director of Chesterfield, who sold Broom Villa, one of around 20 similar sales a year, says that sophisticated vendors do not want to be identified with a market-place "where everyone is presumed to be distressed sellers or the houses are repossessions".

There is also the financial advantage. A private sale cuts out the cost of all the advertising and marketing material which could come on top of a 2 per cent commission.

But in the end the main attraction is still the British love of secrecy, not letting the neighbours know what you are doing, and acting quickly and stealthily before the news is out for public appraisal.

There is a final explanation for the shield of privacy in the recession. Jamie Jago, PR consultant for Chesterfield, says: "It is a way of testing the market, to see if you have the value right, to see if it will sell without exposing the property to the open market first. We have a list of potential clients who are in the market for a quality house."

Private sales have certain other advantages, recession or no recession. Such sales make the trauma out of selling and avoid the stress of keeping the property spick and span for weeks on end, and having to be there regularly to show prospective purchasers round.

"There is a certain cachet about buying a property not openly on the market," says Clive Hopkins, of Knight Frank & Rutley. "You make the purchasers feel that they have been thought about and trusted with the information. They feel quite special about being shown a property that nobody else is."

There is also the financial advantage. A private sale cuts out the cost of all the advertising and marketing material which could come on top of a 2 per cent commission.

But in the end the main attraction is still the British love of secrecy, not letting the neighbours know what you are doing, and acting quickly and stealthily before the news is out for public appraisal.

DAVID THURLOW

## Well-ordered conversions

As the nuns move out, the convents of Britain are being adapted to perform a new, more secular role

due to move to the order's other house in Plymouth.

Luckily, the convent is not a huge, grim edifice, but a rather jolly Arts and Crafts building designed by the distinguished ecclesiastical architect John Dando Sedding, a friend of William Morris.

The main façade is a jumble

of bits of English vernacular, including half-timbering, Queen Anneish windows, tile hung gables and a medieval porch in stone with battlements. The core of the building is a cloister, and behind rises a rather delicate little chapel.

Paddy Stewart-Morgan of



Reverend Mother Mary Theresa of the Sisters of Charity

Cluttons, who is handling the sale, believes the convent will become housing for the elderly or disabled, perhaps under the ownership of a charity. He says a couple of charities have shown an interest, and hopes to agree a sale soon, close to the asking price of £750,000.

The Convent of Our Lady of Zion is a beefy, multi-storey Victorian blockhouse in Chestnut Villas, Kensington, west London, built in 1892 by a Catholic architect, Arthur Young. In 1981 the nuns moved out and it was converted into spacious flats. John D. Wood is currently selling a two-bedroom flat there, at an asking price of £139,000.

For the very lucky few, there are some genuine medieval convents still standing, usually converted to houses during the Reformation. St Margaret's Priory, in King's Lynn, Norfolk, for example, served for years as cottages after the three monks and their prior moved out at the dissolution of the monasteries. Recently, it was taken in hand by the King's Lynn Preservation Trust.

Trust members restored the structure and converted it into six houses, one of them is now on the market with William H. Brown.





## OPERA page 24

Leonie Rysanek: though in her sixties, she stole the show, singing and acting at the Met

## ARTS

## CINEMA page 25

Hungarian film-maker Imre Gyöngyössi pays tribute to a friend who died mysteriously



Jeremy Kingston, David Sinclair, Hilary Finch and John Percival tip potential winners in their respective fields

## Curtain up: names to watch in 1993



They are all contenders: (left to right) Birmingham ballerina Monica Zamora, rocker and rapper Apachi Indian, Irish soprano Regina Nathan and actor/company founder Adam Magnani caught the critics' eyes and ears in 1992

The stars of tomorrow's stages and concert halls rarely spring up overnight. Most of today's top professionals have put in years of hard work that went largely unnoticed by the public. So how many other potential headliners might be out there, quietly pursuing their art? Four Times critics name the young performers they saw in 1992 and tip for success in 1993

Having been amused by Emma Amos as Franchette, the gardener's dippy daughter in Watford's *Marriage of Figaro*, her killer-bimbo, improbably named Sherbert Gravel, in Philip Ridley's *The Fastest Clock in the Universe* (at Hampstead) came as a marvellous shock. Anxious, alert and psychologically years ahead of the baldy men she throws into confusion, her blend of *four-nalveté* and cool attack was thrilling to see.

Adam Magnani, co-founder with Tim Luscombe of London Gay Theatre Company, gave two haunting performances in the course of the year, one a monologue and the other, in a two-actor play, climaxing with a long, strong speech. In the opening section of Harvey Fierstein's trilogy *Safe Sex* (Contact, Manchester), he vividly contrasted past

indulgence with the desolation of the present. Even more powerfully, as the young New York baker addressing unseen policemen in Lanford Wilson's *A Poster of the Cosmos* (London's Offstage Downstairs), his story of extreme sacrifice emerged with a curt urgency that charned the heart.

John Strain has appeared in four recent productions at the Gate Theatre in Notting Hill, three of them Spanish — he is currently the eye-patched Pizarro in *Madness in Valencia*. I was greatly struck by the manner of his playing the Emperor Diocletian as a sort of Caledonian Genghis Khan in *The Great Pretenders*, and

by his stricken Ghost of Polydorus in *Hecuba*.

Joanna Robinson played the trusting "backward" teenager in Richard Crampton's *Pond Life* (Bush), artlessly adoring an older boy whose knees she knocked, as if on a closed door, when she needed to tell him something important. Also at the Bush, David Neville's *Exile* blazed into life when Corinne Harris revealed the inner turmoil of a girl in love with an Irish bomb-maker and untroubled by the long deceptions required. I especially remember the sudden smiles betrayed by her restless hands.

In the title role of Dekker's *The Honest Whore* (Bole-

vard), updated to Fifties Soho, Geraldine O'Connell looked touchingly fragile in repose and swept from this to be larky, sharp-tongued or hysterical as the plot sent her character veering through changes of heart.

At the end of the year came Jules Melvin's radiantly intelligent and passionate victim in *The Rape of Tamar* (Lyric Studio, Hammersmith). Light-heartedly charming when playing what she takes to be innocent games with her brother, her range embraced a furious denunciation scene, delivered with a sense of terrible, unappeasable hurt.

JEREMY KINGSTON

There are few secrets in rock these days. Anything remotely new or exciting is pounced upon and ravenously dissected before it even gets out of the egg. England's great hope for 1993 is a band from London called Suede, who have released just two singles. But as they have already been lionised to a ludicrous degree, interest in them may be on the wane by the time their first album comes out in March.

The danger of premature over-exposure is lessened for those acts which come from further afield. Take Bettie

Serveant from The Netherlands, not a person but a highly promising group whose name is an inescapable homage to the Dutch tennis champion Bettie Stove (it means "Bettie to serve"). Their debut album, *Palomine*, is a tough but dreamy offering, rooted in Sixties pop-rock lore, but given a sharp Nineties twist. Featuring the seductive vocals of Carol van Dijk and the wiry guitar tone of Peter Visser, the band's depths are hidden by a glorious simplicity and poise.

From Canada come Tragically Hip, a road-hardened mainstream rock band out of Kingston, Ontario, who are poised to explode in the rest of

the world with their third album *Fully Completely*. Most of the group are graduates of Queen's University, and their studiously crafted but essentially unchallenging music has that winning patina of intellectual credibility so essential, post R.E.M.

Britain's best-known Asian performer, Apachi Indian, could have a significant hit with his forthcoming debut album *No Reservations*. Indian, from Handsworth, Birmingham, is a reggae talker whose culture-crunching music incorporates the dancehall beats of Jamaica lightly garnished with the sounds of tabla and sitar. His last single, "Arranged Marriage",

earned him enormous acclaim for confronting an institution which has provoked intense inter-generational conflict among British Asians.

Having made a strong impression in 1992, the Saw Doctors, who come all the way from Tuam, Co. Galway, are not going to go away now. Their wildly irreverent odes to life in rural Ireland have proved to have a curiously universal appeal.

Finally a shout for another London band with two singles behind them and an eponymous debut album on the way. Stardust have clearly been influenced by classic melody/harmony groups such as the Beatles, but throw something tougher into the mix as well. Although they are much less fashionable than Suede, there is an instant radio-friendliness about their music which will stand them in good stead.

DAVID SINCLAIR

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Growing up in Leningrad, Marianna Tatarsova studied in St Petersburg where, at 23, she is now in her final year at the Conservatoire. Last autumn she came to the Britten-Pears School at Snape for master classes with Galina Vishnevskaya, and made recital North European and English choral-scholar colleagues sit up when she belted out her Tchaikovsky and Mussorgsky. Her mezzo-soprano, with its dark Slavic core and vibrant top register, is still all but unknown to this country's opera houses, though, with her versatility and quick intelligence, she is ripe for an Olga (*Eugene Onegin*), and an Eboli (*Don Carlo*) should not be too far away.

The Kubmo Chamber Music Festival in Finland, renowned for its eagle-eyed vision in the early spotting and programming of young musicians of exceptional artistry, first introduced me to the

piano playing of Benjamin Frith. His London debut was all of ten years ago, but he has been shrewdly pacing his career, continuing to study, despite his first prize in the Arthur Rubinstein competition in Tel Aviv in 1989. A particularly discerning and imaginative performance of Beethoven's "Diabelli" Variations, at a late-night concert at last year's Edinburgh Festival, made me long to hear more of his playing, with its ever-deepening insights. More London concerts and more recordings are promised for 1993.

The young German viola player, Dietmar Poppen, has also given recitals at Kubmo. London, though, invariably sees her as principal viola of the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, a position she has held for some years in tandem with her professorship in Saar-

brücken. Well-known in Germany for her advocacy of new works, and admired by Yuri Bashmet, with whom she has studied and played, Poppen deserves to be heard more widely as a soloist, and certainly more often in London.

Regina Nathan will be starting the new year in Lucerne, rehearsing for Mimi in *La Bohème* and Euridice in Monteverdi's *Orfeo*. London will have to wait until July to hear her in a Wigmore Hall lunch-time recital. Hers is a soprano which has made competition juries in Cardiff, Vienna, Geneva and Brussels sit up and listen. Glyndebourne Touring Opera hired this warm-toned and versatile Irish singer last autumn as their Susanna in *The Marriage of Figaro* and the next three or four years will, I hope, see the full blossoming of her career.

HILARY FINCH

It is difficult to say that any one of the new dancers is conspicuously more gifted than others. Instead, consider an outsider, the choreographer Amanda Miller, who served her apprenticeship under William Forsythe at Frankfurt and has lately put on works for Scottish Ballet and London Contemporary Dance Theatre. She is about to set up her own company and it will be surprising if she does not make her mark.

And for an each way bet, there is young Matthew Hart at Covent Garden. Jonathan Burrows's departure from the Royal Ballet has left the way open for Hart to take on character roles to which he brings a distinctive edge, and also leaves him the post of the company's "choreographer in waiting," busy learning his craft with small works for one-off occasions.

JOHN PERCIVAL

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## OPERA: ON BRITISH TELEVISION AND THE NEW YORK STAGE

## Opera singers do it every night

The Vampyr  
BBC 2

Endless melodrama, ludicrous plots, everybody bawling everybody else — that is an interesting definition of what this opera has somehow failed to make it into the *New Grove Dictionary*. It is attributed to Janet Street-Porter, producer of last night's sprightly adaptation of Heinrich Marschner's *Der Vampyr* (1828), presented in six nightly parts this week as "a soap opera". It has a fair amount going for it, at least at a metaphorical level. An awful lot of opera is about the irrepressible desire to love, and even more of it is about the unfortunate consequences of ill-considered love.

Hitherto, sex in opera has mostly happened off-stage; the sight of the likes of Mme Tetrazzini and Leo Slezak making the beast with two backs would be for strong stomachs only. But Street-Porter and her director Nigel Finch have changed all that. There is enough sex, bondage and selective nudity to enliven even the most soporific of us in the three episodes I have previewed, some of it in places that would have astonished Marschner. Henceforward are love duets only to be sung when skinny-dipping or in bed? One looks forward somewhat nervously to a Street-Porter/Finch production of *Die Meistersinger*.

Marschner's opera was based on John Polidori's short story, fruit of the sultry summer of 1816 on Lake Geneva that also gave birth to *Frankenstein*, and is a sort of structured *Don Giovanni* to gain an extra year on earth the vampire Lord Ruthven (here renamed Ripley) is obliged to dispose of three virgins within 24 hours. The action is updated to present-day yuppie-dom. Ripley is a city slicker into property and dogs, and his victims are what used to be called good-time girls, which rather reduces the scale of the challenge — the virgin-element is performed abandoned.

Marschner's score is much cut, and the spoken dialogue replaced by a



Omar Ebrahim as Ripley, the vampire of the title: a strong physical and vocal presence

portentous narration delivered by Robert Stephens. Charles Hart's translation is an uneasy mixture of the standard operatic ("Go this instant"), the banal ("you're embarrassing the Earl and find some other girl") and the self-consciously demotic ("shit, oh shit, this is a nightmare, a total nightmare").

The soundtrack is pre-recorded — voices favoured over Marschner's busy orchestra — and the casting is to be carefully done, though it does not always suggest the physical effort required to sing such strenuous music.

It is all good enough in its way. I decline to be outraged. Marschner, a minor master, can take it, and vampirism was after all the 19th-century equivalent of soft porn. Given singers

with the presence and vocal capability — and un-Tetrazzini figures — of Fiona O'Neill (potential victim three), Sally-Anne Shepherdson (victim two) and Omar Ebrahim (Ripley), musical values are not skimmed. Philip Salmon is a lighter tenor than Marschner envisaged for Aubrey/Alex (cast for his waistline rather than his vocal cords) and unlike the others lacks a little embarrassed at some of the things he has to get up to, but his head-voice is pleasing.

The conductor David Parry keeps the music bowing along as briskly as Finch's lively, glitzy direction. There is scarcely a dull moment. As for the £1 million budget — even your best Covent Garden — it allows Finch to flick from location to location, from dock-

land redevelopment to wine bars and bedrooms, often within musical numbers.

For all the fun and games, it might still have been more profitable to explore the opera's Byronic provenance, especially on BBC 2. This version looks like a seasonal *d'esprit* rather than a serious attempt to grapple with the problems of presenting opera on television. Or is it perhaps a portent? A quarter of a century ago Nigel Kneale's television play called, I think, *The Summer of the Sex Olympics*, showed society reduced to people locked up in their flats enthusiastically watching bonking on television. It was presented as science-fiction. Hmm.

RODNEY MILNES

## Wonder woman takes all honours on offer

Jenůfa  
Metropolitan Opera

The finest, most satisfying evening at the Met so far this season is a perfectly cast revival of its handsome 1974 production of *Jenůfa*. Janáček's lurid melodrama requires a cast that can act as well as sing in this production it is difficult to say at which of the two the ensemble excelled more brilliantly, particularly with respect to its leading ladies. Gabriela Benacková, who made an indelible impression earlier in the year as Mimì, sang the name part with flawless technique and sweet tonal purity, her touching dignity grew throughout the evening.

Yet the stage belonged to Leonie Rysanek, whose performance in the role of Kostelnicka was an unforgettable display of bravura vocalism and acting that transcended what we are wont to see on the legitimate stage. Some women her age find it a challenge simply to turn themselves out to attend the opera; but for three hours Rysanek sang with apparently limitless power and moved across the stage like a fury. After the second act, the usually torpid Met audience gave her a spontaneous and prolonged standing ovation.

It is not unusual for a soprano well into (and indeed almost out of) her sixties to retain the power and even the timbre of the voice; but in Rysanek's case the instrument, always one of flexible beauty, is close to being unchanged. Even at moments of great stress, the voice remains colourful and finely grained. Likewise, when the direction called for high drama that might easily have fallen flat, such as the

finale of the second act when she murders Jenůfa's baby, the sheer electricity of Rysanek's personality propelled the scene with irresistible force.

Alongside this commanding pair of women, the men did well to hold their own. Canadian tenor Ben Heppner did more than that, singing the part of Laca with a lovely, velvety warmth that blended exquisitely with Benacková. The final duet between the two was almost unbearably moving. An American tenor named Jacques Trussel, making his debut as Steva, acquitted himself well but seemed a bit overawed under the circumstances.

The production made an excellent case for the Met's house policy against the use of translations or surtitles. It was in fact the first time that *Jenůfa* had been sung at the Met in Czech, a decision presumably based upon the casting of Benacková, who probably could not have sung her part in English, even had someone been foolish enough to ask it of her. Yet it is almost unimaginable that the production could have been improved, or the audience more ecstatic in its approval — by its being sung in English or by having a slide show projected above the stage.

JAMIE JAMES



Kostelnicka (Leonie Rysanek, left) and Jenůfa (Gabriela Benacková)

## LONDON

SHELLEY: AN IMPERFECT ANGEL? A belated London celebration of the bicentenary of Shelley's birth in 1792. The show includes portraits and other Shelley-related art as well as manuscripts, annotated books and even fragments of his ashes.

British Library Galleries, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-636 1555) Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun, 2.30-5pm, until Feb 28 (closed New Year's day)

TRAVELLING OPERA: Peter Knapp and his energetic touring company arrive at the South Bank with their lively versions of Puccini's *La Bohème* (set in 1930s Paris) and Donizetti's *Don Pasquale* (with the hero as a modern Tuscan times lord).

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-498 8800), La Bohème, Tonight, 7.45pm; Don Pasquale, Tomorrow, 7.45pm

THE NUTCRACKER: Tchaikovsky's perennial Christmas offering celebrates its 100th birthday this year, an event marked by English National Ballet in its annual Nutcracker Festival at the Festival Hall, Ben Stevenson's production may not be the most inspired around, but it does boast attractive designs, courtesy of Desmond Heeley

Festival Hall, South Bank, SE1 (071-528 8800), Today-Sat, 2.30pm, 7.30pm

THE TALES OF BEATRICE POTTER: The Royal Ballet celebrates Christmas with an all-Ashdon season: the double bill of *The Dream* based on Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* and *Tales of Beatrix Potter*, the popular 1971 film adapted for the stage, is coupled with *Cinderella*, using

□ AMPHIBIANS: Superb ensemble playing in Billy Roche's robust elegy for a fishing community in Wexford. The Pit, Barbican Centre, EC2 (071-638 8811), Tonight-Tues, 7.15pm, mat tomorrow, Sat, 3pm, 10.15pm

□ ANNE GET YOUR GUN: Irving Berlin's pre-war musical is no model for a New Year's celebration but the songs are simply smashing. Prince of Wales, Coventry Street, W1 (071-638 8870), Tues-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Thurs, Sat, Sun, 3pm, 10.15pm

□ ASSASSINS: Sondheim's sharp and successful musical explores the motive that drives us to kill. American Presidents. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-528 8800), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, Sun, 3pm, 10.15pm

□ BARNUM: Enjoyable Christmas treat, with Paul Nicholas leading the high wire. Bowing numbers by Joe Coleman and Michael Stanger. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, W1 (071-528 8800), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, Sun, 3pm, 10.15pm

□ CAROUSEL: Joanne Riding and Michael Hayden star in a triumphantly revised Rodgers & Hammerstein National (Lytton), South Bank, SE1 (071-528 8800), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Tues, Sat, 2.15pm, 10.15pm

□ THE COMEDY OF ERRORS: Ian Judge's subtly funny production, with award-winning Desmond Bant playing both portly twins. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8811), Today-Tues, 7.15pm, mat Thurs, Sat, 3pm, 10.15pm

□ CYRANO DE BERGERAC: Robert Lindsay looks right as the usually challenged hero but the production is too bustling to give the much room to the full poignancy of his fate. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-528 8800), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed and Sat, 2.30pm, 10.15pm

□ GRACE: Anna Massey and James Laurosian in riotous acted out superficial play about televangelists in Yorkshire. Hampstead, Green Lanes, N1 (071-528 8800), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Sat, Sun, 3pm, 10.15pm

□ HAY FEVER: Very funny performances (not always where you expect) in Coventry's excellent comedy. Albany, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-528 8800), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, Sat, 3pm, 10.15pm

□ IT RUNS IN THE FAMILY: Larks in the hospital comedy room; mutton outraged, doctors humiliated. Play Court, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-528 8800), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, Sat, 3pm, 10.15pm

□ AN IDEAL HUSBAND: Anna Carter, Hannah Gordon and Martin Shaw in a witty and clever comedy. Play Court, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (071-528 8800), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Thurs, Sat, 3pm, 10.15pm

□ KISS OF THE SPIDER WOMAN: Tremendously glossy production of the 1950s musical. 10.15pm, mat Thurs, Sat, 3pm, 10.15pm

□ LOST IN YORKERS: Terrific performance by Rosemary Harris in a Neil Simon comedy more weighty than usual. Marmalade Theatre, Coventry Street, W1 (071-528 8800), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mat Wed, Sat, 2.30pm, 10.15pm

□ OUR SONS: Peter O'Toole in Keith Waterhouse's play about a menopausal man's infatuation with a young woman. Newly done though we only hear the man's point of view. Apollo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-528 8800), Mon-Fri, 8.15pm, Sat, Sun, 8.45pm, 10.15pm

□ RADIO TIMES: Tony Statton in a fun trip down Memory Lane, set in wartime Broadcasting House, bursting

## TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment events compiled by Heather Alston

Prokofiev's score, Ashton created some of the most delightful choreography, especially for the ugly stepdaughters, one of the funniest double acts in all ballet.

Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-340 1000), The Dream/Tales of Beatrix Potter, Today, tomorrow, 7.30pm. Tales of Beatrix Potter alone, tomorrow, 2.30pm. Cinderella, Fri, 7.30pm

DRAGON: A fantasy with clowns about a knight, Lancelot, trying to liberate a town but the inhabitants aren't sure they want to be liberated.

South Bank, SE1 (071-498 8800), Today, 10.45pm, 2.15pm, 7.15pm

STAN TRACEY OCTET: The distinctive pianist celebrates his birthday and the 50th anniversary of the first night he played jazz.

Bull's Head, Smeeth Bridge, SW13 (071-678 5211), Tonight, 8.30pm

JAZZ JAMAICA: An evening of Jamaican informed music. Jazz Café, 116 Parkway, NW1 (071-284 4356), Tonight, 7pm

ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA: The orchestra under John Neschke presents a selection of music by Tchaikovsky on the eve of his centenary year including excerpts from Eugene Onegin and Romeo and Juliet.

Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-638 8811), Tonight, 7.30pm

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE VOICE: Alison Steadman and Jane Horrocks in Jim Cartwright's play about a shy girl escaping her cautious mother.

Adelphi, WC2 (071-836 8404), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm

THREE BIRDS LIGHTING ON A PIED: Harriet Walter perfect again in revival of this comic, comic play of the 19th century, set in a world of shifting values and plummeting art prices.

Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (071-730 1740), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 4pm, 10.15pm

TRAVELS WITH MY AUNT: Simon Cadell, John Wells, Richard Kane, Christopher Goss play all 26 parts in Goshawk's new comedy, adaptation of Graham Greene's novel.

Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-571 1161), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, mat Wed, Sat, 3pm, 10.15pm

LONG RUNNERS: C. Blood Brothers (071-887 1044), B. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), C. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), D. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), E. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), F. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), G. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), H. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), I. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), J. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), K. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), L. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), M. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), N. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), O. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), P. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), Q. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), R. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), S. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), T. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), U. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), V. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), W. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), X. The Boy in the Woods (071-887 1044), Y. 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# Home sweet homogeneous

An American husband and wife are designing towns the Prince of Wales would like. Marcus Binney reports

**C**an a new town be a work of art? The laurels accorded to America's most fashionable town planners suggest it can. Andres Duany and Elizabeth Plater-Zyberk are a husband and wife team, trained as architects but increasingly working as urban designers.

Their resort town of Seaside on Florida's Gulf Coast is the most talked about traditional town since Port Grimaud on the Côte d'Azur. Now their firm — DPZ for short — has 40 major commissions in

hand for town layouts across America. Duany and Plater-Zyberk have mounted nothing less than a crusade against what they call the "spaghetti" layouts of suburbia, all meandering roads and cul de sacs. They are pioneering a return to the scale and pattern of

18th-century towns, with parallel streets, right-angled corners and houses set close to the pavement. Duany says he is influenced, too, by English colonial architecture in the Caribbean, with its Georgian proportions and constant use of verandas.

The key to their success lies in formulating written codes, dictating forms through the medium of language. "Any town that is good-looking on a travel poster has a limited range of architectural elements," Duany says.

They quote the Abbé Laugier, father of 18th-century neo-classicism. "For a city to be well-built, the exterior of buildings cannot be left to the whims of private citizens," Laugier wrote. "Everything in a street must be approved by the public authorities and abide by general rules for the design of streets."

Their ideas have been taken up by the Prince of Wales, who was especially attracted by the fact that at Seaside "with the code, anyone can design his own house". DPZ's influence was strongly evident in *Urban Villages*, a blueprint prompt-

ed by the prince and intended to influence British house-builders, planners and highway engineers to espouse more traditional values.

DPZ are not imposing a complete uniformity, and still less themselves as architects. At Seaside they have held back from designing a single building. "One firm can't achieve authentic variety, a town must be the work of many hands," Duany says. Only some of the houses at Seaside are by architects, he says; others are by designers, carpenters or the owners themselves. In their

codes for new towns DPZ specify a range of house types to ensure variety. They recognise the supreme importance of roof pitches, always being "specified within a certain range" and say that window proportions must always be vertical or square. "Towns consid-

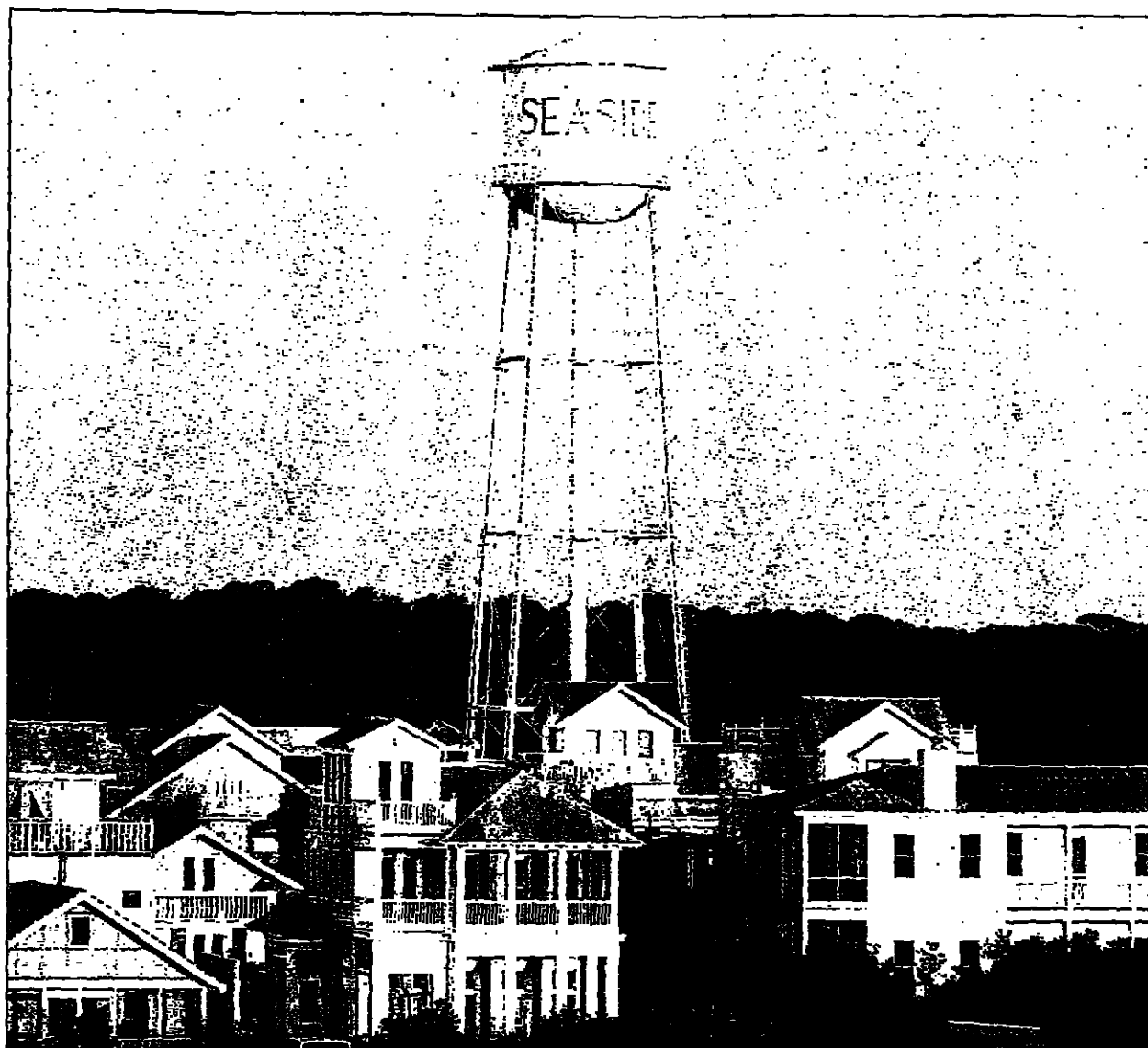
ered beautiful are always made up of buildings which share an attitude towards the proportions of windows and roof types," Duany says.

Next they limit the palette of materials to those available before 1940. "This is not an arbitrary date," he adds. "Before the war materials were what they were. After that date industrialised ersatz insinuated its way in."

The success of DPZ lies in its willingness and ability to work directly with developers. The couple went on long tours of Southern towns in America with Robert Davis, the promoter of Seaside. Davis has remained the owner of Seaside, never selling on, and thus ensuring continuity.

Duany goes still further in seeing developers as the main hope for enlightened urbanism. "You cannot today present an urban plan to a city council or a neighbourhood association and expect it to survive as a strong idea, because the many voices will make it a morass."

DPZ is nonetheless committed to community involvement. It begins each project



Old-fashioned, and bang up-to-date: the Florida town of Seaside was deliberately designed to evoke a grander past

with a charette, a week-long "design-in". The charette establishes a full working office on site, and works with local architects, historians, engineers, ecologists and marketing consultants.

The charette starts with a day of visits to the site and nearby towns, which might provide ideas, followed by a presentation to the local community. Over the following days the team works with local people, officials and advocacy groups, designing everything from the master plan to typical buildings. Local people are both involved in and see the design process. On the last evening the results are presented in a public lecture.

Are they restricting aesthetic freedom? "The code guarantees a minimum standard, that the houses will be decent

looking," Duany says. At Seaside the code allows for variations "on the basis of architectural merit", but no such variations have yet been requested by architects or owners. An element of individuality, even eccentricity, is admitted by allowing towers, with a footprint no more than 215 square feet, ensuring they do not block views of other houses towards the sea. Their success is evident in *Seaside*, a handsomely illustrated monograph on the town (published by Phaidon, £29.95).

The return to traditional layouts is significantly in contrast with the philosophy of new towns in Britain such as Milton Keynes, where pedestrian routes have been separated from houses and roads, making some walkways so dangerous that people resort

to walking down the centre of dual carriageways.

Much of DPZ's work is for the top of the market. Their elegant new resort at Windsor, on Florida's east coast, is almost a new Palm Beach. Where else would you find a resort with twin polo pitches flanking the main approach?

Duany says they are equally concerned with affordable housing. In Miami they are building migrant housing, on a courtyard plan, for \$35,000 (£23,000) a house, each with three bedrooms, bathroom and large living room. "This is good weather housing, with no need for heating. Families expect to finish off interiors themselves," Duany says.

At Kentlands, near Washington DC, they have been working with a volume house builder. The houses have been so successful, however, that buyers have bid them up into a new price bracket.

So now DPZ is looking at trailer parks, permanent caravan sites. "We've done two. We went to the mobile home factory and asked if roofs and windows could be changed. Every time the answer was 'no problem'. So we're seeking better saves details, better proportioned windows, natural wood cladding, which will add perhaps 10 to 15 per cent to the cost," Duany says.

The American Institute of Architects voted Seaside among its top ten projects of the 1980s. If DPZ can achieve a similar accolade ten years hence for a trailer park it will have really succeeded.

## RADIO REVIEW

### Songs from the Woods

**C**hristmas is over. So let us take as read all the jokes of the "Like some more mead, Bede?" variety — read in far too great abundance on the air in the past week, and with far too much self-satisfaction.

Fortunately, however, there were some Christmas radio programmes that borrowed out entertainment in less predictable places.

On Sunday, you could have heard, played for the first time in public, a recording of Sir Henry Wood's Russian wife Olga singing Mendelssohn's *On Wings of Song*.

Her tremulous voice came to us from the year 1908 in a programme called *New Wood from Old Timber* (Radio 3). It was presented by a music student, Jonathan Dobson, who when working in the library of the Royal Academy of Music last year found a whole cache of recordings formerly owned by the conductor.

He also played discs of Wood himself singing *The Lotus Flower* down the recording horn in a splendidly exaggerated, snarling tone, and conducting Dvorak and Vaughan Williams with cheerful cries of "crescendo".

Two music critics who had been brought on to the programme took rather different views of the singing, one thinking it extremely heartfelt, while the other took it to be "negative pedagogy" — in other words, a demonstration of how not to sing.

But everyone agreed that these crackling sounds showed what a remarkable conductor Wood was; and the musical world was exhorted to celebrate the centenary of the Proms in 1995 with appropriate fervour.

The same evening, Radio 4 went back 40 years to *The London Smog of 1952*. None of the speakers who had breathed it in could agree what it looked like — was it "yellow-green", "yellow-black" or "reddish black"? — but all clearly wanted to curdle the blood of younger listeners who had not experienced anything like it.

They gave some colourful accounts of adventures such as walking, quite lost, into a private driveway with a double-decker bus following care-

fully behind; but the attempt to make a horror story out of the gloom fell rather flat. More people than usual died during the five smog-ridden days, but a doctor suggested they were all semi-moribund people who would have gone within a week or so anyway. "How could I know I'd lose you/Somewhere along the way?" a man sang at one point — and that seemed about the level of the disaster for most people.

A third trip into the past was conducted by the actress Fanny Carby in *Fanny and the Plaster Saints* (Radio 4, Christmas Eve). As an 18-year-old student in the late 1940s she got a job painting plaster statues at a "God-shop" near Victoria Station, and putting gold-leaf on to some Stations of the Cross in a country church.

Her attempts to find surviving traces of that episode were fairly abortive but she met one interesting man on the way — the aged Mr Bartlett who still runs a religious art shop in Westminster.

He did not remember her, but he lamented the pulling down of an earlier shop — probably hers — where he might have sat in the doorway in his wheelchair looking up at the high altar every time the doors of Westminster Cathedral were opened.

As for the Stations, she tracked them down to Faversham, where an Irish priest told her they had been painted over "because they were too big". It was a nice little sic transit tale, if a bit padded out.

Forward to a modern horror, invented by Lynne Truss, in a short story of hers read by Sylvester Le Tussell on Christmas Day, *They Can Be So Close* (Radio 3). What is happening to all these women with fur coats who are falling from balconies with scratch-marks on their bodies? Are the dead animals fighting back?

It is all a ridiculous notion, thinks the cold-blooded narrator, who has a jacket made of hyena leather — "It makes me laugh to think of it." And a hyena's laugh rings out...

DERWENT MAY

## What happened to the man who knew too much?

The disappearance and death of an eminent Hungarian academic is the inspiration for a disturbing film by a courageous team

**J**anos Elbert was Hungary's finest translator of the Russian classics. He was also popular with his fellow academics. Although, like many Hungarians in the 1950s, he finished his education in Moscow, there was no suspicion that he had been recruited (as sometimes happened) by the KGB. As a young man, however, this brilliant linguist had been employed as an official government translator. Only much later did his friends wonder if he had learnt more than was good for him.

One evening in the 1980s he went out to buy a packet of cigarettes and never came back. Some days later he was found drowned in half a metre of water at Lake Balaton. On scanty police evidence, the coroner returned a verdict of suicide.

Elbert's teenage son was suspicious, and started asking questions. He, too, disappeared. When his body turned up in the Danube, the verdict was again suicide. Later, Elbert's widow fell from a high window. This time the suicide verdict seemed at least a little more credible.

To this day there has been no real investigation of the Elbert affair, which remains a constant source of speculation for Hungarians. It was not an isolated case in eastern Europe. At least 30 East German intellectuals vanished in comparable circumstances during the 1980s.

The Hungarian film-making team of Imre Gyöngyösi, Katalin Petenyi and Barna Kabay knew Elbert well: Petenyi (Mrs Gyöngyösi) had taught with him in the Budapest Academy of Theatre and Film. They decided to make a film "in memory of all those unknown intellectuals who had disappeared".

Exercising their rights under Hungary's new laws, the group asked to see the Elbert papers. The officials were courteous, but the files did not materialise. As they took their appeal higher they met the same response. Nobody was entirely surprised. Throughout eastern Europe there is growing awareness that the machinery of the KGB and its associated secret services was too extensive to be easily dislodged.

Discouragement only stiffened the film-makers' resolve. "We have called the film



KGB interviewing techniques: a brutal scene from *Death in Shallow Waters*

*Death in Shallow Waters* — everyone knows what that means. It is not specifically about the Elbert case, but a fictionalised speculation on the processes involved in these KGB-engineered affairs," says Gyöngyösi. Their protagonist is a research chemist whose honest intransigence destroys him, while his more cunning, card-carrying superior is the archetype of all the old apparatchiks who have made easy transitions from the old regime to the present.

The project was not greeted with universal enthusiasm in Hungary. The government's film foundation invested in it, but television declined to be associated with it. Eventually the major part of the budget came from Germany and Austria, with considerable support from the European "Eurimages" fund which supports pan-European co-production.

Last week the unit was shooting the film's final scenes in Budapest, with a mixed cast of Polish, Hungarian and German actors playing together effortlessly, despite the different languages. The various language versions of the completed film will eventually be dubbed, with the actors native to each one speaking their own parts.

"In the past", Gyöngyösi says, "these polyglot casts have often been ridiculous, but we are beginning to see that if you choose and direct the actors well this kind

of multinational mix can stimulate a new and remarkably rich kind of ensemble acting — a true European style." Asked how they work together (the trio has been joined by the Gyöngyösi's son Bence, as production manager), the team explains: "If one or two of us go to prison, there is still someone left to carry on."

They are only half-joking. Originally a seminarian, Imre Gyöngyösi spent years in the 1950s as a political prisoner. As film-makers, the group has never avoided unpopular subjects and frequent clashes with the old socialist political establishment prompted them to emigrate to Munich: *Death in Shallow Waters* is their first Hungarian-made film in ten years, since their Oscar-nominated *Revolt of Job*.

Just before *Death in Shallow Waters* they completed *Freedom of the Dead*, a documentary about Lithuanians returning home after 50 years' exile in Siberia, bringing with them the bodies of their long-dead parents. "Death in Shallow Waters" is a memorial to the dead, but also a call for continued watchfulness in the living," Gyöngyösi says. A comprehensive retrospective of the work of the Gyöngyösi team is scheduled for the National Film Theatre in 1993.

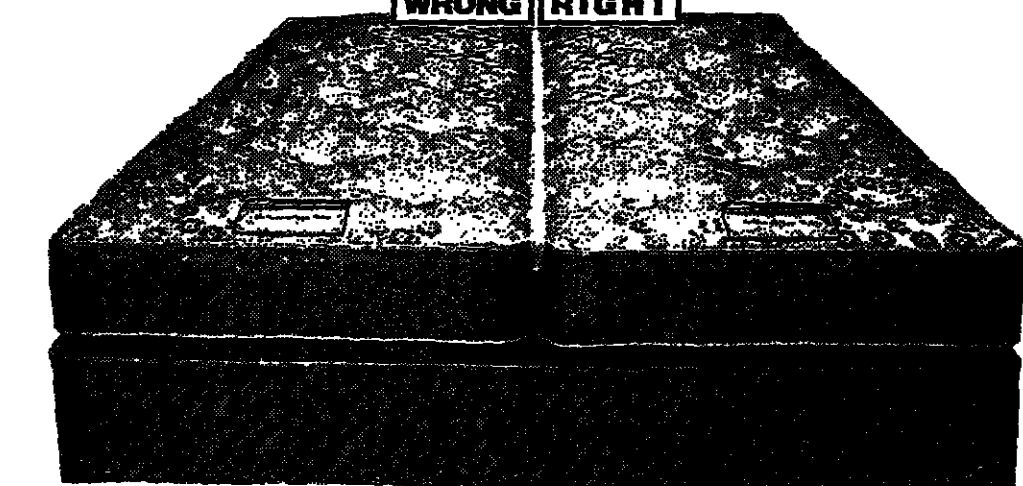
DAVID ROBINSON

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# Napalmed in the name of more choice

Roger Graef looks back on a year in which attempts to extend the range of television have had an outcome that in some cases is positively surreal

British television has been pulverised in 1992 in the name of viewers' choice. "Extending Choice" is indeed the title of the BBC's new manifesto, and the year began with a Broadcasting Act which invoked viewers' choice and paved the way for the nightmarish auction of ITV franchises. Its surreal outcome was that some winners paid only £2,000 for their franchises while others paid up to £40 million to keep theirs. Still others lost because they bid too much. Thames Television, unexpected losers of the London weekday franchise, redirected their energies to make use of Channel 5. Thames is still in shock at the Independent Television Commission's decision not to let them proceed with a menu, if not of Channel 4 richness and depth, at least providing an alternative to the set formula into which most popular television falls.

The commission doubted that Thames TV's funding base could stand the heat, but again, the result means less choice. Decisions made under this rubric have not always had this effect: 1992 marked the tenth anniversary of Channel 4 whose existence really has provided more choice. This summer, the channel's board risked its closure to defend journalistic freedom — one of the likely casualties of the new economic climate. But the new Act also "frees" the channel from its protected funding and obliges it to sell its own advertising in an increasingly competitive market. This means diverting scarce cash from programmes to fund its sales team, and adds pressure to weight its schedule to win viewers, in effect, narrowing choice.

Channel 4 starts the new year insisting its survival depends on

maintaining its difference from mainstream television. But in ITV, those still left are in no doubt that they must maximise their audiences in every slot.

We must be hopeful at the appointment of a network controller, Marcus Plantin, from LWT. Under Andrew Quinn, a respected veteran of Granada's golden age, Mr Plantin has appointed a team with strong records in quality popular television. The team's chances of delivering new ideas have been increased by the Office of Fair Trading opening the way for independent producers to submit proposals direct to the network.

However, calling for quality, freshness and innovation, desirable as they may be, does not in itself produce them. It's obviously too soon to judge but descriptions of the new programmes on offer from Carlton and GMTV, the successors to Thames and TV-am, look remarkably similar to the output of their predecessors. Among the BBC's contribution to widening viewer choice this year have been *Eldorado* and *Bobby Davro: Public Enemy Number 1*, clones of ITV programmes — themselves copies of US formats.

Yet the BBC's uncomfortable year ended with a splendid new document which is admirably clear about its promises of a wide range of distinctive television: no more clones, no more cheap bought-in serials merely to balance the budget. It commits the corporation to a wide range of education and documentaries, new drama and comedy and, crucially, to give comedy time to find its feet and audience. This statement of intent deserves to win the forthcoming debate about the BBC's value in every sense of the word.

The corporation's licence fee is



Marcus Plantin's team has a fine record



Same faces, same old ideas: Eldorado, with Leslee Udwin, pictured, and Bobby Davro, Public Enemy Number 1

ludicrously cheap compared to other expenditure. Yet the reason it has not yet so far been greeted with more enthusiasm is the doubt within and without the corporation that the will and resources exist to deliver the goods.

The people now in charge of British television are calling for a host of new shoots of creative growth from farmers, many of whose fields have been napalmed by budget cuts. The creation of new ideas of all kinds takes time, support and courage — as well as research and other resources.

It also takes confidence that you will offer it to a receptive audience of potential backers with the funds and freedom to respond reasonably quickly. All of these are in increasingly short supply.

Like those at the BBC, Mr Plantin and his colleagues at the ITV Network centre are looking for

"fresh ideas and new formats across all programming genres and time slots" and, moreover, "quality of audience is as important as quantity". Great news for viewers and for independents starved of outlets if it comes true.

There is a catch. To qualify for Mr Plantin's consideration, each proposal must be "at a highly developed stage", with key personnel on both sides of the camera named, budget, funding and even audience research in place. This is normal research and development — which was previously funded by the producing organisation. At the BBC, and companies such as Granada, producers and researchers would be paid to think and explore new projects until they were ready for production.

This was a vital time in which for relatively low cost, ideas would germinate while the necessary ap-

provals were obtained to see whether plans were feasible. Before making the Police series for the BBC, four of us spent four months observing a cross-section of the 43 police forces throughout Britain, comparing notes and negotiating our access with the Home Office.

In the new streamlined mode of publisher-broadcasters, such stages are left largely to hard-pressed independent producers to fund themselves. Channel 4's invitation for bids to run its new law magazine drew no fewer than 56 entries from a wide range of distinguished people in law and television. Many submissions cost thousands to prepare, but only one will ever reach the screen. The net effect of this desperate scramble is to narrow the range of producers and ideas likely to be funded even at the development

stage, let alone to reach full production. Hardly a contribution to wider choice.

Inside the BBC the new reality is described as producers' choice, nobly intended to put more money on the screen and less into bureaucracy and unneeded resources. It was also designed to head off the expected threat from the government in this year's green paper. After a decade of Mrs Thatcher's open hostility, it was presumed that, as with ITV, over-manning would be used as a way of taming the BBC.

Now the threat is dissolved, the government's green paper at the end of this year accepted both the need for the BBC and a licence but invited public debate about what role and shape the BBC should take that may be pre-empted by the corporation's internal changes. Its economy drive may so alter the

BBC that the option of keeping the status quo will have been eliminated. Many fear that at the rate it is going it will end with a rump of disgruntled staff serving a superstructure of executive producers and managers of yet another publisher-broadcaster.

Crucially, what has been left out of the various equations by which expensive consultants have managed these changes at both the BBC and ITV is what I call creative waste: thinking time, time to reject the first or second idea or version.

Now we are seeing a waste of creativity. At the BBC, staff producers' time itself is measured and costed so tightly they go from full production on one project straight to the next, with no time to digest and clear up the last or think about the next one. This may be efficient of their time but not their talent. Serious producers will inevitably use their evenings on one project to prepare the next, much in the manner of freelancers.

This, too, is cost-efficient for the organisation but not for the individual or their work. Short cuts and reliable formulaic solutions are the inevitable result. Why shoot on film when tape or camcorder will do, why shoot a real observational scene when an interview about it will fill the space. Why research the interview face to face when a phone call will suffice? Why not pre-script the interview, thus saving time, tape and editing? Why pay the travel costs to shoot a foreign story or a regional one when local issues will do?

Why shoot your own videos when home-camcorder buffs, big companies and record firms will provide their own? The logic of efficiency takes you further down the road to the banal.

In the grey areas of programme-making, the market mechanism is too crude to be useful; both the BBC and ITV charge substantial sums simply for looking at their archives and far higher for using any footage. Programme makers are thus discouraged from even considering their use. Who gains from this "saving"? Certainly not the viewers.

Decisions like these are invisible but they make a difference to the quality of finished work. You can make programmes without them. Yet somehow this exercise is described as designed to give us quality and choice. If only it did.

After four months, the first national commercial radio station is winning more listeners than its competitor

## Classic success for Radio 3's rival



Building a fresh audience for classical music? Henry Kelly, left, Margaret Howard, Susannah Simons and Adrian Love

SIR George Young, the housing minister, won a champagne magnum from Classic FM this month. Listening in his car one Saturday to the station's Six Of The Best quiz, he found himself solving a question linking Beethoven, Haydn and Strauss. "Emperor!" exclaimed Sir George to his passenger, his wife Aurelia, who rang Classic on the carphone. "George on the M4" was that week's winner.

He is one of five million people who have become regular listeners to Classic FM, Britain's first national commercial radio station, started four months ago. They are attracted by a recipe that soaks 24 hours a day of "the world's most beautiful" classical music in a light marinade of speech — news, traffic reports, interviews by Margaret Howard and Susannah Simons, Henry Kelly's racing tips and advertisements.

"We find it slightly easier to listen to than Radio 3," Sir George says. "It complements it. The difference is that if something on Radio 3 is boring, the chances are it will go on for 40 minutes. On Classic, it's over in three minutes."

"They could polish up their pronunciation, though. Talking of violin technique the other day, the presenter referred to 'bowing', as in inclining the body, rather than 'bowing', as in plane. But they are getting better."

One reason for that improvement is the arrival of Tony Scotland, the former Radio 3 announcer made redundant last month after 20 years' service. "We've hired him on a year's contract," says the programme controller, Michael Bukht, better known as Michael Barry of BBC2's *Food and Drink* programme, "and he's been coaching several of our presenters in foreign languages."

Some listeners, even fans like David Mellor, voice other complaints. "His cheery disrespect sometimes verges on contempt for any awareness of what the music is about," says Mr Mellor, architect of the 1990 Broadcasting Act that brought Classic into being. "Of course, there is room for presenta-

tion of classical music that does not involve dissecting arpeggios. But in its desire to get away from that, Classic sometimes laughs at the very notion that there are any analytical things to say about music. It's like the golfer so keen on avoiding the clubhouse on the right that he ends up hitting the ball into the lake on the left. They haven't quite found the fairway. Nevertheless, I congratulate them. They have spent £12 million in a recession and they're blazing a trail for classical music."

The investors (Time-Warner, the commercial radio group GWR and Associated Newspapers) are unlikely to see profits for a year or two. But what they and everyone else already see is a high degree of awareness of and enthusiasm for the fledgling station, which employs only 45 people in a converted

boiler room in Camden Town, north London.

Classic has had so many letters and telephone calls that it has hired Victoria Williams, a former television executive, purely to deal with them. Mr Bukht says: "She spends three hours every morning dealing with listeners' music enquiries. We also receive about 2,000 pieces of mail — letters and competition entries — every day."

Much of the credit for Classic's appeal must go to the broadcaster Robin Ray, with his long experience in middlebrow music programmes on Radio 4 and Radio 2. Describing himself as "a musical Egon Ronay", he has compiled Classic's entire music library and given a "Michelefin rating" for thousands of different pieces — every Puccini aria, Schubert impromptu, Brahms intermezzo, Bach cantata, every movement of every Beethoven sonata and Tchaikovsky concerto. He awards each piece from four stars (for instantly familiar and accessible works such as the Pachelbel Canon) to one (for tough ones such as Shostakovich's string quartets).

"So far," he says, "I've listened to, and listed, about 10,000 tracks. It took a year, listening ten hours a day."

Nicholas Kenyon, Radio 3's controller, will not say what he thinks of Classic FM, although he is believed to think the BBC station's audience of about 2.5 million has

not shrunk. The first jointly agreed quarterly audience figures in the history of British radio came out next month.

There is now a real, not illusory, choice. Radio 3 has a vastly greater range, plays more live music, commissions pieces, maintains a close relationship with the BBC's five symphony orchestras and stresses exposition and context. Unlike Classic, it puts the emphasis on complete works, not excerpts. Classic offers a more direct appeal to the emotional content of the music and with such warmth, friendliness and often wide-eyed enthusiasm that nobody could ever be at all intimidated.

"For too long there has been a feeling that classical music was not for the ordinary person, and that if you hadn't studied it, you'd better stick to the light music with which you are familiar," Mr Ray says.

"Classical music is an Aladdin's Cave of wonders. All you need to enjoy it is a pair of ears and a heart."

PAUL DONOVAN

The author is radio columnist for The Sunday Times

Law Report December 30 1992 Queen's Bench Divisional Court

## Pit closure decision deprived miners of consultation expectation

Regina v Secretary of State for Trade, Ex parte Vardy and Others

Regina v Secretary of State for Trade, Ex parte Price and Others

Regina v British Coal Corporation, Ex parte Vardy and Others

Regina v British Coal Corporation, Ex parte Price and Others

Before Lord Justice Gidwell and Mr Justice Hadden

[Judgment December 21]

Decisions by the Secretary of State for Trade and by British Coal on October 13 to close 31 collieries, and their subsequent decisions on October 19 to close 10 of the 31 collieries and review the future of the remaining 21, were unlawful.

The decisions were made without any consultation with the unions and were in breach of section 99 of the Employment Protection Act 1975 (from October 16, 1992, section 188 of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992).

They deprived the trade unions and the workforce of a legitimate expectation that the modified colliery review procedure would be followed and the decision to close the 30 pits without any independent scrutiny was irrational.

The unions were entitled to a declaration that British Coal should not reach a final decision on the closure of any of the 10 collieries nor should the secretary of state make available funds which would enable British Coal to reach such a decision until a procedure substantially to the same effect as the modified colliery review procedure, including some

form of independent scrutiny, had been followed in relation to each of the collieries.

Lord Justice Gidwell held in the Divisional Court of the Queen's Bench Division on applications by Paul David Price, seven other miners, the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Association of Colliery Overmen, Deputies and Shovelers, and by Alan Vardy, eight other miners and the Union of Democratic Mineworkers for judicial review of the decisions of October 13 and 19.

Section 99 of the Employment Protection Act 1975 provides:

"(1) An employer proposing to dismiss as redundant an employee of a description in respect of which an independent trade union is recognised by him shall consult representatives of that union about the dismissal....

"(3) The consultation required by this section shall begin at the earliest opportunity, and shall in any event begin — (a) where the employer is proposing to dismiss as redundant 100 or more employees at one establishment within a period of 90 days or less, at least 90 days before the first of those dismissals takes effect....

"(5) For the purposes of the consultation required by this section the employer shall disclose in writing to trade union representatives — (a) the reasons for his proposals.... (e) the proposed method of carrying out the dismissals, with due regard to any agreed procedure, including the period over which the dismissals are to take effect....

"(7) In the course of the consultation required by this section the employer shall — (a) consider any representations made by the trade union representatives; and

(b) reply to these representations and, if he rejects any of those representations, state his reasons."

Article 2 of Directive No 75/129 of the European Council, adopted on February 17, 1975, provides:

"(1) Where an employer is contemplating collective redundancies, he shall begin consultations with the workers' representatives with a view to reaching an agreement....

"(2) These consultations shall, at least, cover ways and means of avoiding collective redundancies or reducing the number of workers affected, and mitigating the consequences."

Mr John Hendy, QC, Miss Jennifer Eady and Mr Kier Sturmer for the NUM and NACODS and their applicant members; Mr V. V. Veeder, QC, Mr Peter Kessan and Mr Christopher Veida for the UDM and its applicant members; Mr Conrad Dehn, QC, Mr Charles Falconer, QC, Mr Raymond Cox, Mr Nicholas Paines and Miss Daphne Lebel for British Coal; Mr Stephen Richards and Mr Philip Havers for the secretary of state.

LORD JUSTICE GIDWELL said that on October 13, British Coal had announced that it was to close production at 31 collieries, of which 27 would be closed within five months. Most would cease production within the next few weeks, four pits being kept on care and maintenance.

The same day the secretary of state had announced that he was making funds available for a range of measures to alleviate the effects of the resulting redundancies.

Some days later, on October 19, the secretary of state had told the Commons that he had "concluded

that, for the time being, British Coal should be allowed to proceed with the closure of only 10 pits which it has told me are currently low-making and have no prospect of viability in the foreseeable future."

In relation to those closures it was "clearly important that British Coal demonstrably meets its statutory duties to consult and notify and take account of the result of consultation. No closure will therefore take place until after the statutory consultation period has been completed."

As far as the other 21 pits were concerned, the secretary of state said he had asked British Coal to introduce a moratorium until the New Year. During that period, the Government and British Coal would consult all concerned, and he would then announce the results to Parliament.

On October 21, the secretary of state had announced the appointment of Messrs Boyd, an international mining consultancy, to report to him on the viability of the 21 pits.

Mr Richards had argued that the secretary of state was not acting under statute but under a general ministerial responsibility. His Lordship did not recognise any such responsibility. Ministers acted either under the royal prerogative or under statute. There was no question of the existence of any prerogative, so unless he was acting under statute the decision was ultra vires.

In his Lordship's judgment, the secretary of state had been exercising a power under the Coal Industry Nationalisation Act 1946. Without his providing funds British Coal would not have gone ahead with the closures. Mr Richards had maintained

that the decisions were not subject to judicial review, and Mr Dehn had said they were commercial decisions within the area of private law. Mr Dehn had relied, *inter alia*, on *R v East Berkshire Health Authority, Ex parte Walsh* (1985) QB 152 and *R v National Coal Board, Ex parte National Union of Mineworkers* (1986) ICR 791.

His Lordship did not accept that British Coal was to be equated with other private employers. Section 46 of the 1946 Act had provided a regime unique to the coalmining industry. It restricted British Coal's right to dismiss mineworkers and if British Coal had not complied with its obligations under that regime it was a matter of public law.

*R v National Coal Board, Ex parte National Union of Mineworkers* had probably been wrongly decided. All four decisions were susceptible of judicial review.

His Lordship reviewed the obligations imposed on British Coal by the section 99 of the 1975 Act (now section 188 of the 1992 Act) and by the 1975 European Directive.

The 1975 Act did not require consultation about whether the employer's establishment should be closed, but only about the manner in which and the terms on which dismissals for redundancy should be effected. The Directive included consultation on whether the relevant establishment should be closed at all.

The provisions of the 1975 Act were narrower than those of the 1975 Directive. Mr Dehn had submitted that British Coal was not affected by the directive, which did not apply to establishments "governed by public law". It was unnecessary for the court to decide that issue because

British Coal had made it clear on October 30 that consultation would be in accordance with the directive.

His Lordship said section 46 of the 1946 Act had imposed on the National Coal Board (now British Coal) a duty to enter into consultation with the coalminers' unions in order to reach agreement on joint consultation machinery for matters including the closure of coal mines and redundancies resulting from such closures.

The resulting agreement, revised from time to time, had by 1972 become the colliery review procedure and involved consultation between the Board and the unions at local, area and national levels.

In 1985, after the end of the year-long miners' strike a new machinery for consultation about closures of collieries was agreed between the Coal Board and the NUM, NACODS and the British Association of Colliery Managers.

In effect, the machinery had added to the existing procedure a right for the unions to refer a proposed pit closure to an independent review body if consultation at national level failed to persuade the NCB to withdraw its proposal to close the pit.

That procedure, embodied in a written document, had become known as the modified colliery review procedure. The independent review body consisted of a QC (or retired judge) who conducted a hearing and reported, expressing his conclusions on the matter in dispute.

The agreement also expressly provided: "The Board will not take action, including significant manpower reductions, that would prejudice the outcome of the appeal."

After it was agreed, the modified procedure had been operated in relation to all pit closures until October 1992. There had been six references to an independent review body in 1986, but none thereafter.

After the breakdown of the UDM from the NUM in December 1985 the procedure at area level was operated at pits where the UDM represented the majority of workers, but without a new formal agreement between the Coal Board and the UDM.

His Lordship rejected a submission from Mr Dehn that the UDM was entitled to the benefit of the modified colliery review procedure.

Section 46 of the 1946 Act had imposed particular obligations on British Coal which were wider than those under the 1975 Act or the directive.

The concept of legitimate expectation came within natural justice or "fair play in action". The failure to consult in accordance with the procedure was an example of procedural impropriety in the terms laid down by Lord Diplock in *Council of Civil Service Unions v Minister for the Civil Service* (1985) AC 374.

The modified colliery review procedure was a procedure which was not enforceable as a contract, but it gave the unions and their members a legitimate expectation that the procedure would be followed unless and until British Coal announced that it would be withdrawn and consulted with the unions about a new machinery to put in its place in accordance with section 46 of the 1946 Act.

This was a classic example of legitimate expectation and all the decisions complained of had ignored British Coal's obligations

under section 46(1) of the 1946 Act and legitimate expectation.

The decisions announced on October 13 were made without any consultation and were thus in breach of section 99 of the 1975 Act and of the 1975 Directive, if it applied directly to British Coal.

In addition the decision to deprive the unions and workforce of the 10 pits of any independent scrutiny could properly be described as an irrational one which the secretary of state and the Board could not properly have reached.

The court was concerned with what should happen now. Much of the modified colliery review procedure was already under way and could be regarded as having commenced on October 30. What was needed was the rapid addition of some independent scrutiny.

*Mandamus* as sought by Mr Hendy was not the appropriate remedy. The applicants were entitled to a declaration. The decisions of October 13 and 19 were quashed.

MR JUSTICE HIDDEN agreed. He fully appreciated the enormous problems facing British Coal but they had to be resolved within the law and not outside it.

His Lordship was emphatically satisfied that the decision of October 19 was unlawful. It was undeniable that the applicants were clearly entitled to the legitimate expectation of consultation.

British Coal had indicated its commitment to the modified colliery review procedure as recently as May 1990 and no notice of any change of attitude had been given since.

Solicitors: Stephens Innes, Hopkin & Sons, Manchester; Nabarro Nathanson, Treasury Solicitor.



Best concerned at extra burden on players

# England's coach warns of slide to professionalism

By PETER BILLS

THE laws introduced into rugby union this season are driving the game faster and further down the road to professionalism, the England coach, Dick Best, said yesterday.

Best, speaking as the senior England squad prepared for tomorrow's departure for a long weekend training in Lanzarote, said that fitness levels, one of the main areas on which the selectors will focus this weekend, have been raised commensurate with the requirements of the new laws.

"I am very concerned about where the law makers are trying to push the game. Just by these law changes, the ball is in play much more and, therefore, top players find they need to be 20 per cent fitter to play the game. That means they are having to spend 20 per cent more time training and we are asking a lot more of people."

"We are giving rugby players Olympic athletes' schedules to train every day or even twice a day. It has got beyond a joke. The law makers are pushing people down the road to professionalism just to train for this game."

The England coach forecast that standards which pertained at the World Cup little more than a year ago, would be proven wholly inadequate by the time of the 1995 tournament. Already, he said, the game had moved on enormously since the 1991 event, won by Australia.

"If the game keeps going like this what was good enough in 1991 won't be anywhere near sufficient in two years' time. The players have to be aware the game is moving on and the demands on them are more now than at the last World Cup."

"But equally the law makers should know that if they keep changing the game this way they are pushing people down an inevitable channel."

In Lanzarote England will spend almost two days on fitness work alone, ensuring that the team, which is announced this weekend to face France and Twickenham a fortnight this Saturday, will be in peak condition.

Specific changes to the laws have meant that the amateur code now bears a closer resemblance to rugby league. This is a widely held source of concern among many rugby union officials and Best admits he is one of them.

"Our game is becoming like league, which is quite frightening. It is all about tackling now."

"The big hits will be the order of the day, just like league. You let people win the ball but tackle them so hard they cannot get anywhere."

Best believes such tactics would inevitably dictate the pattern of the forthcoming five nations' championship.

He fully acknowledges that although England may possess the classiest and probably the quickest of the back lines in the tournament, under the new laws their employment may be drastically curtailed from last season.

"The new laws will be a great leveller. It is terribly difficult to sustain pressure for any length of time. You cannot play for position that much so the way round is to kick with great precision. There is already a lot more kicking in our game now and the more important the match the more kicking we shall see."

"It is going to be hard for backs this season. There will be more defenders standing out of rucks and mauls and we have to try and tie people in. You cannot just whizz the ball around all over the place."

Best added that England would take a leaf out of the Australians' book by attempting to use dynamic rolling mauls to commit defenders.

"In that case Back's mobility, swift recycling of the ball and intelligent support come to nothing. Can a club commit itself to total rugby when league points or cup progress hang on the result?"

Rupert Moon, the Llanelli scrum half, has a damaged shoulder which may prevent him training with Wales in Lanzarote next month.

Barbarians — are committed to all-out attack too, then he will appear to even greater advantage. But Northampton may feel the need to grind Leicester down at forward and base their game around John Steele's kicking from stand-off half. Leicester themselves may feel their pack is strong enough to impose itself where as their back division, the wings apart, is not of the same calibre.

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On the rebound: Derrick Coleman beats Alonzo Mourning, of the Charlotte Hornets, to the ball in the first half of the New Jersey Nets' 104-103 win in the NBA yesterday

## Cadle's call is answered as Duncan returns for Kings

By NICHOLAS HARLING

LORENZO Duncan, the high-scoring American guard whose prolific contributions helped to propel Kingston into the last eight of the European Cup two years ago, will be back for a popular reunion with some of his former teammates over the next few days.

Kingston have since moved on — to Guildford — and so has Duncan — back to Illinois — but he returns to Crystal Palace, the scene of his old club's European triumphs, for the Russell Athletic world invitation club championships.

Alonzo Byrd's cartilage operation four days before Christmas left Guildford so undermanned in the back court that the club decided to take advantage of the tournament rules and send for Duncan. The 6ft 4in player was happy to oblige, even though he may arrive too late for Guildford's opening match, against Solna.

Even without Duncan, 28, Guildford would probably be too strong for the Swedish champions, but they will certainly need him should they reach a semi-final, on Saturday, against the winners of tomorrow's first round match, between the Carlsberg League leaders, Thames Valley Tigers, and Braunschweig, the German team.

Duncan's availability has delighted Kevin Cadle, the Guildford coach, who was feeling refreshed after spending Christmas in Lanzarote. "Where for the first time in 37 years I didn't think about basketball."

Cadle was made to regret his decision to part with the American at the start of last season. By the time he had changed his mind, Duncan had been snapped up by Hemel Hempstead. "I know he will go to battle for us," Cadle said. "He's a good guy. I would have liked to have him again last season but it didn't work out that way. He's got a lot of quickness and speed."

Those virtues were not displayed by CSKA Moscow last year much before they reached the final, where they were beaten by Kingston. With memories of the Russians' late arrival, which caused the tournament to be reshuffled, it is to be hoped that the organisers have not slipped up by asking Moscow to start tonight's programme against Birmingham Bulls, the third English team in the men's event.

The winners of that tie will meet the winners of tonight's second game, featuring Stuttgart-Ludwigsburg, and the Czechoslovak champions, USK Prague, in Friday's first semi-final. Danny Palmer, the former Crystal Palace coach, is expected to coach Stuttgart, even though he recently ruptured his spleen in a car crash.

Tonight's programme: 6.15: CSKA Moscow v Birmingham Bulls; 8.00: USK Prague v Stuttgart-Ludwigsburg.

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### GYMNASICS

## N Korea banned for birth date blunders

NORTH Korea's women have been banned from participating in the world championships, to be staged at Birmingham in April, for repeated false declarations of the age of Kim Gwan Suk, the former world champion (Peter Aykroyd writes).

The ban, imposed by FIG, the world governing body, is the first penalty for this kind of infringement. It follows examination of the entry forms for the world championships of 1989 and 1991, and the Barcelona Olympics.

A different date of birth had been entered for Kim in each case, respectively October 5, 1974, February 15, 1975 and February 15, 1976.

The North Korean federation has apologised, dismissed the official responsible and declared that Kim's correct date of birth is February 15, 1975. There is no suggestion that she was under age for the competitions.

Kim won the asymmetric bars gold medal at the world championships in Indianapolis in 1991. She took fourth place on the same apparatus at the Olympics, when her team came ninth overall.

Norbert Bueche, the secretary general of FIG, said: "We hope such a case will not be repeated and are determined to fight against such infractions with much harder sanctions."

### TENNIS

## Graf plans to retire in five years

Bonn: The Wimbledon champion, Steffi Graf, is considering retiring from the women's game in five years, it was reported yesterday.

"I am just not the type to keep playing tennis at 28 or 29, I know that," she said. "I have already been in this murderous rhythm for ten years."

Graf, 23, said she wanted to start another kind of life before becoming too old to switch tracks and that she wanted more time to travel.

"I have never been to Africa, to China, to South America. I only get to go where there are tournaments." (Reuters)

### CRICKET

## West Indies lose Haynes cheaply in survival battle

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

WEST Indies lost their opener, Desmond Haynes, on the fourth day of the second Test match against Australia in Melbourne yesterday as they fought for survival, facing an unlikely winning target of 359. Haynes was out for five and West Indies finished the day at 32 for one. Their main hope now is to hang on for a draw on the final day.

Australia had been bowled out after tea for 196. Then, with 13 overs to go to the close, Merv Hughes, the fast bowler, forced the out-of-form Haynes to edge a catch to the wicketkeeper, Ian Healy. Phil Simmons and the West Indies captain, Richie Richardson, held out until close of play.

West Indies were left needing 327 runs to win on a dry pitch which is cracking and causing occasional uneven bounce.

The Australians were painstakingly slow in building up their second-innings total, their opener, Mark Taylor, taking four hours and 11 minutes to score his 42.

The top scorer, with 67 not out, was Damien Martyn, 21, playing in his second Test. He raised the pace near the end to take advantage of the tiring West Indies attack.

He was supported by

Hughes and his fellow tailender, Whitney, who equalled his best Test score of 13 before being run out to end the Australian innings.

The pacesman, Ian Bishop, dismissed Steve Waugh, Taylor and Border, to finish with figures of three for 45 off 20 overs. The other wickets were shared by Ambrose, Walsh and Simmons.

The first Test was drawn.

AUSTRALIA: First innings 355 (M E Waugh 112, A R Border 110, C A Walsh 4 for 91).  
Second innings  
M A Taylor b Schoch 40  
D E Border b Simmons 11  
S R Waugh c Richardson b Ambrose 5  
M E Waugh c Ambrose b Walsh 16  
D R Martyn not out 67  
A R Border b Schoch 4  
I A Healy c and b Walsh 8  
M G Hughes c Williams b Ambrose 15  
C J McDermott c Richardson b Simmons 9  
M R Whitney run out 13  
Extras (b 1, lb 6, w 1) 12  
Total 196

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-32: 2-40: 3-41: 4-73: 5-90: 6-102: 7-121: 8-154: 9-167.  
SCORING: Ambrose 20-57-2: Bishop 20-5-4-3: Walsh 21-42-2: Simmons 18-6-34-2: Hooper 2-4-1-9-0.

WEST INDIES: First innings 323 (K L T Arthurton 71, S C Lara 55, C J McDermott 4 for 68).  
Second innings  
D L Haynes c Healy b Hughes 5  
P V Simmons not out 14  
I A Bishop not out 12  
Extras (lb 1) 3  
Total (t wld) 32

P C Lara, K L T Arthurton, C J Hooper, J C Adams, 10: Williams, I R Bishop, C E L Ambrose and C A Walsh to bat.

FALL OF WICKET: 1-9: SCORING: McDermott 5-0-34-0: Hughes 6-2-1-1: Whitney 2-1-1-0.

## New Zealand poised

Auckland: New Zealand go into today's decisive limited-overs international against Pakistan full of confidence, according to Ken Rutherford.

New Zealand levelled the three-match series against the World Cup-holders with a six-wicket victory at Napier on Monday.

"Mentally, we now know we can match it with these guys,"

Rutherford, the batsman scored a significant 34, said. He added that confidence was the key to coping with the speed and skill of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis, and the naggingly accurate leg-spin of Mushtaq Ahmed.

"When you're against bowling of that class, I think it's very important not to let them get on top." (Agencies)

### AMERICAN FOOTBALL

## 49ers lifted by return of Montana

JOE Montana was able to take part in a National Football League game for the first time in nearly two years yesterday, as the San Francisco 49ers beat the Detroit Lions 24-6.

Montana, the quarterback who has been out with an elbow injury, played the second half and looked sharp as he completed 15 of 21 passes for 126 yards. The victory gave the 49ers, who have already clinched the NFC West division title and home advantage throughout the playoffs, a 14-2 record.

In the AFC West, the Denver Broncos' failure to reach the playoffs cost Dan Reeves, who coached the team for 12 seasons and took them to three Super Bowl appearances, his job. Reeves was dismissed yesterday, the day after the Broncos lost 42-20 to the Kansas City Chiefs.

In New York, management and players' representatives spent six hours trying to put the finishing touches to the NFL's new labour agreement.

An NFL spokesman said the sides "had made some progress. But there continue to be difficult, unsettled issues."

The agreement, tentatively agreed a week ago, would introduce free agency, impose the first salary ceiling and reduce the draft from 12 rounds to seven, with a limit of \$2 million for new players' salaries.

### SQUASH

## England duo opt for Zurich

THE outcome of the threatened player-boycott of the men's national championships yesterday became academic for England's top duo, Peter Marshall and Chris Walker, who were named among eight qualifiers for the first Super Series finals in Zurich, which take place at the same time as the English event in Manchester (Colin McQuillan writes).

With \$100,000 (£65,000) on offer in Zurich and the lowest individual prize likely to top \$4,000 (£2,600), Marshall, last year's national winner from Nottingham, and Walker, a national semi-finalist from Colchester, would probably have opted for the profit and television exposure on the international playoffs, even without the present debate over the viability of an unsponsored English championship.

The Squash Rackets Association is awaiting a positive response to letters sent to the top 40 Englishmen before committing to a men's championship in Manchester from January 14.

Marshall and Walker will join Jansher Khan, of Pakistan, and the Australians, Chris Dittmar, Rodney Martin, Brett Martin, Tristan Nancarrow and Rodney Eyles, in Zurich from January 16. Simon Parke, of Yorkshire, the England No. 3, is third reserve for the series.

### WORD-WATCHING

BRUMBY (c) A wild or unbroken horse. Oz, also brumby and brumbee, origin unknown: "A lanky, sawny bushman who saddled his brumby and rode for the nearest town." Kipling: "People who lost money on him [sic, a race-horse] called him a brumby."

CYMBIDIUM (b) A tropical orchid of the genus so named, with a hollow recess in the lip of the flower, from the Greek *kymba* a cup: "There were three or four large groups that included cymbidiums." "Cymbidiums do not like being disturbed more than can be helped."

PEPPERONI (c) Beef and pork sausages seasoned with pepper, adaptation of the Italian *pepperone* chili: "Dot the surface of the pizza with sliced pepperoni sausage." "It's still Felini, which has become an identifiable substance like salami or pepperoni that can be sliced at any point."

RIZA (b) A metal shield or plaque framing the painted face and other features of a Russian icon, and engraved with the lines of the completed picture, from the Old Slavonic *rizn* a garment: "It became usual to encase an icon in a costly metal cover or riza, in which openings were cut to show the essential sections of the painting."

SOLUTION TO WINNING MOVE  
White missed the chance for the brilliant 1 Ng5!! Bxh2 2 Rxb7: Qxb7 3 Nxf7 mate.

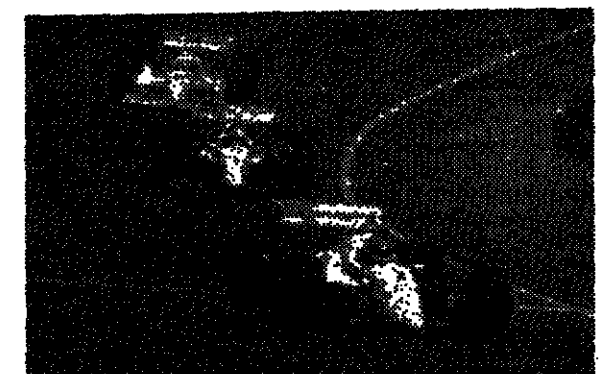
## Fly First Class for less

Win a trip to the Indianapolis 500

Today, *The Times* offers you the chance to win a pair of tickets to the Indianapolis 500 and invites you to apply for a Transatlantic Privilege Pass which could save you up to £1,932 when you fly with Northwest Airlines before March 31, 1993. A Privilege Pass entitles you to the following benefits:

- Automatic upgrade from Executive Class to First Class.
- Automatic upgrade from Full Fare Economy to Executive Class on one leg of your return trip.
- In addition, you will also receive the full Executive Class Portfolio privileges for the one way upgrade leg on departure or arrival. You can choose from one of the following:
- Free door-to-door limousine (within 60 road miles of Gatwick).
- Free chauffeur parking at Gatwick Airport.
- Free car hire to and from Gatwick Airport.
- Free overnight hotel accommodation at Gatwick.

And that's not all. Privilege Pass holders, whether they travel Executive Class or Full Fare Economy, will be enrolled in Northwest Airlines' free travel plan, WorldPerks, which allows you to accumulate mileage towards free or discounted travel every time you fly with Northwest.



### NORTHWEST AIRLINES

To take advantage of this offer simply collect six differently numbered tokens from those printed in *The Times* from December 26 to January 1, 1993 (token 4 appears below), and send them, together with your name, address and daytime telephone number, to: *The Times* Transatlantic Privilege Pass Offer, PO Box 490, London E1 9DW. Applicants will receive a Transatlantic Privilege Pass, a WorldPerks Membership card and the Executive Class Portfolio brochure. Full terms and conditions will appear in *The Times* Friday January 1.

### Free Sporting Heritage Calendar

Ideal for all sports aficionados, this comprehensive Sporting Heritage 1993 Calendar is available exclusively to readers of *The Times*. To obtain your free copy, simply collect any six differently numbered tokens from those printed in *The Times* between December 26 and January 1 (token four appears here) and send them, together with your name, address and a cheque or postal order for £5.00 to cover postage, to: *The Times* Free Sporting Heritage Calendar Offer, PO Box 11, London, North Yorkshire LS24 9XA. Please make cheques payable to *The Times*. Tokens will appear in *The Times* Friday January 1.

### TODAY'S COMPETITION

Indianapolis is a city full of



## The Quotes of the Sporting Year selected by Peter Ball

## 'We went to opera and football before I was in politics and I intend to keep doing so — it beats reading White Papers'

— John Major

□ I'm tired of going from airport to hotel to courtesy car to stadium. Michael Stich, blaming his first round defeat in the New South Wales tennis open on problems of motivation.

□ Anyway, my wife doesn't want any more fish heads in the house. They are ugly things and they attract the cats. Peter Gurd, justifying throwing back a wahoo which could have given England a silver instead of bronze medal in the Martin World Cup.

□ They can expel me if they like, but the bottom line is I will not be there. The only thing I'm likely to miss out on as a non-member is the pension and insurance scheme, and at this stage that's not a consideration. Jina Courier, refusing to attend a mandatory instruction seminar of the Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP).

□ There is no limit to the amount of money players can earn. Denis Easby, member of the Rugby Football Union's standing committee on amateurism, announcing the approval of the players' money-making scheme.

□ I find it rather ironic that the storming of the battlements of amateurism now has England in the van. We will of course provide them with all the reinforcements they require. Denis Evans, secretary of the Welsh RFU.

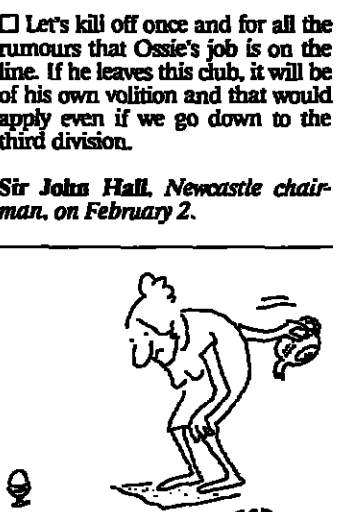
□ You're just another punter as far as I'm concerned. Jack White, Southampton car park steward, refusing Kevin Keegan admission to the Zenith Data Systems Cup match with West Ham.

□ We're on a first-name basis. He calls me Allen and I call him Shaikh Mohammed. Allen Paulson, part owner of Araz, on his partner.

□ If they ran the law of the land, it would be a mugger's paradise. Mike Bateson, Torquay United chairman, on the FA disciplinary commission decision not to punish Gary Blissett for the challenge which fractured John Uzzell's cheekbone.

□ The guy is just a flat-track bully. He ruthlessly exposes the weaknesses of others, but when his own weaknesses are exposed, he just folds. John Bracewell, New Zealand off-spinner, on Graeme Hick's mixed fortunes in New Zealand.

□ Let's kill off once and for all the rumours that Ossie's job is on the line. If he leaves this club, it will be of his own volition and that would apply even if we go down to the third division. Sir John Hall, Newcastle chairman, on February 2.



□ If women stayed at home and concentrated on the washing and looking after the kids there would be no problem. I know times have changed, but the situation in bowling clubs hasn't. Bob Young, the president, on the Scottish Bowling Association's restrictions on women.

□ When I said those words, I meant every one of them. But we ran some projections through the computer which confirmed that this club would not exist if we are relegated. Hall, explaining Ardiles's sacking three days later.

□ It's not the end of the world ... but it's close to it. Graham Gooch, England captain, after losing his third World Cup final.

□ It was a steering job for me. Carl Llewellyn, a late replacement as jockey, after riding Party Politics to his Grand National win.

□ In some quarters, there are those, it seems, who think that the future belongs not to the spin bowler but to the man who paints logos on the outfield. Graeme Wright, editorial in the 1992 Wisden.

□ Something will happen somewhere, in the 89th minute, that will either break somebody's heart or make their day. Brian Little, Leicester City manager, with all to play for on the last Saturday of the season.



It would be a fun match — we both grunt. Monica Seles on a proposal for a match against Jimmy Connors.

There were people who tried everything to bring about my fall, but the warnings about my breathing were worst. I felt like an animal trapped in a cage — a target to shoot at. Monica Seles, blaming her Wimbledon final defeat by Steffi Graf on pressure over her grunting.

□ Vocabulary — that's my biggest failing. John Motson, BBC football commentator.

□ I'm one of those 20-year, hard-graft, overnight successes. Howard Wilkinson, as Leeds made their run-in to the Football League championship.

□ Every now and then, a blind pig finds an acorn. George Strawbridge, the winning owner, after Selkirk and Saratoga Source had completed a 44-1 double at Newbury.

□ I have never upset anyone in my life. Javed Miandad, Pakistan captain, protesting his good faith.

□ I'm certainly not gay, and neither is Rupert. But he scored the try that won us the cup, and as his captain I was overjoyed. Phil Davies, Llanelli captain, after a local vicar had complained that his kissing Rupert Moon could encourage homosexuality.

□ I actually ran one person over, but I was only going a few miles an hour and he loved it. Nigel Mansell, mobbed after his grand prix win at Silverstone.

□ I had given instructions for the jockey to be up with the pace, but obviously Mr McNally knows more about racing than I do. I must just be some mushroom kept in the dark and fed on manure. Peter Chapple-Hyam, the trainer, on Dr Devous's failure in the Kentucky Derby.

□ You have to be mad, or Derbyshire, to go into a four-day game without at least one specialist spinner. Harvey Trump, Somerset off-spinner.

□ Thank God we didn't win the World Cup two years ago. Had Bobby Robson got lucky and won the cup, we'd have been under pressure to keep him and never have got Graham Taylor, the best manager I've known in my England career. Peter Swales, chairman of the FA international committee, before the European championship.

□ I expect to win. Let me do the worrying — that's what I'm paid for. You get your feet up in front of the telly, get a few beers in and have a good time. Graham Taylor's pre-European championship message.



□ You could say I have picked my team and he is not in it. Gower, explaining that Gooch would not be attending his wedding.

## SWEDES 2 TURNIPS 1

The Sun headline after England's defeat.

□ I wanted someone up front with the strength to hold the ball up. Graham Taylor, England manager, explaining his decision to substitute Gary Lineker against Sweden.

□ Saying I can't do the things I've been doing all my career is more upsetting to me than being pulled off in the first place.

Gary Lineker, after being substituted in his final international against Sweden. □ Whatever happened to football? Whatever happened to passing and that sort of thing? Bobby Charlton, after England's opening 0-0 draw with Denmark in the European championship.

□ It's the first time I've been up a tree since I wore short trousers. Nick Faldo, after climbing a scrub oak in a vain search for his ball in the second round of the US Open.

□ I thought I was going to play like Jack Nicklaus, but instead I played like Jacques Tati.

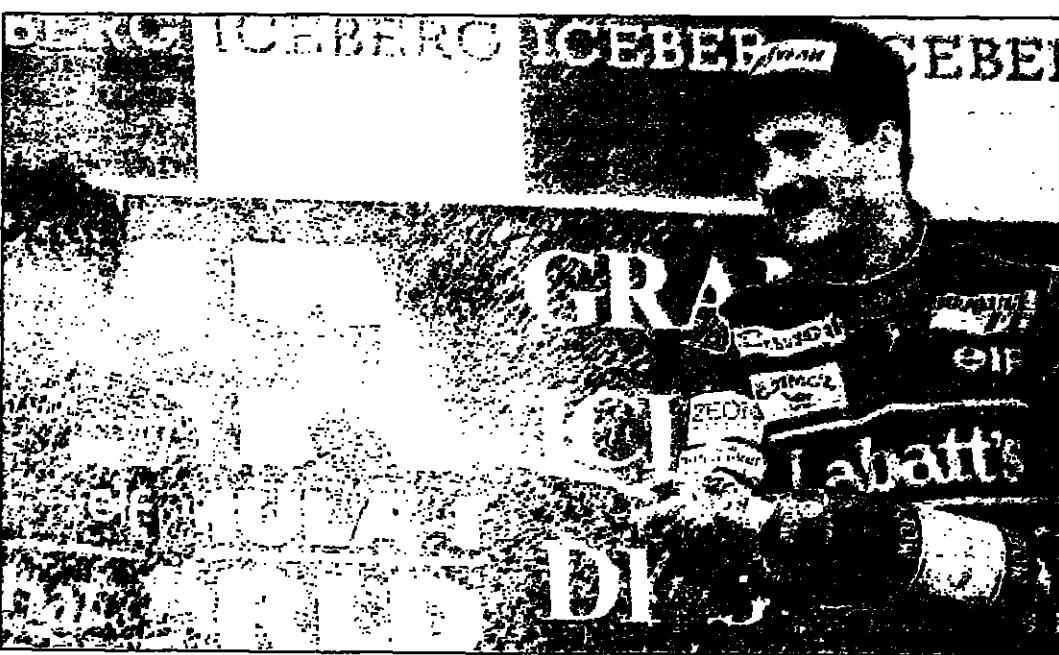
David Feherty at the Cannes Open.

□ This is the big tournament for the big guys. I can't see Agassi, or Michael Chang for that matter, ever winning Wimbledon. They aren't big enough or strong enough. It's a place for the power people.

Boris Becker, previewing the 1992 Wimbledon championships.

□ He plays the whole year not so great, and then he sees my face and he plays his best. He hit some shots that are not even in the book.

Becker, after losing to Agassi in the quarter-finals.



To say I have been badly treated is, I think, a gross understatement. Nigel Mansell, announcing his decision to retire from Formula One after failing to reach agreement with the Williams team.



□ The way he handed the sweater to Agbi was very rude, really bad and insulting. Imtiaz Alam, Pakistan team manager, blaming umpire Roy Palmer for the unpleasantness at Old Trafford.

□ Sex gets in the way of winning. Jim Crowler, explaining why he had broken up with his girlfriend Morgane Fruhwirth.

□ We are not going to have a Premier League at this rate with me in court all the time. Rick Parry, chief executive of the Premier League, on ITV's attempt to block the £304 million contract with BSkyB.

□ It's about time the paying fans stopped subsidising the armchair viewers. Parry, answering protests about football going onto a pay channel.

□ He showed character, temperament and all his experience to come up trumps. Gooch on Gower's vital innings at Headingley.

□ The point of the Olympics is to go out and beat the rest of the world, not to live with them. We have a saying in Utah — the Indians did not dine with Custer.

John Stockton, US Olympic basketball player, on the dream team's refusal to stay in the Olympic village.

□ I think we are living in a very strange world when you talk about welcoming in tennis and golf millionaires and basketball players earning \$30 million between them and then saying there is no room for a sport that is among the few that remains truly amateur.

Jim Fox, former pentathlon gold medalist, on suggestions that the pentathlon's place in the Olympics was under threat.



People hang on his every word and he thinks he is a superstar. In fact, he is just a lot richer and a bit quicker than he was four years ago when he joined us. Frank Williams on Mansell.

□ I must finish, dad ... just make sure I'm in lane five where I started.

Derek Redmond, hopping home with his father's support after pulling a hamstring in the 400 metres semi-final.

□ There was a loss of concentration and a loss of determination. Why, I don't know. The human being is the greatest mystery of the universe. Julio Velasco, Italian Olympic volleyball coach, after his side's quarter-final defeat by Holland.

□ The only sport where you can be sure no one is cheating on steroids is flaming synchronised swimming. Elvise Gordon, British Olympic judo team.

□ Until we conceded the fourth goal, we outplayed the Australians, we really did. Bernie Cottam, men's hockey team manager, on Australia 6 Great Britain 0.

□ You can't finish anywhere better than on the podium of an Olympic Games.

Kris Akabusi, retiring after winning the 400 metres hurdles bronze medal.

□ Essex Girls Do Come First. Daily Mirror headline on Sally Gunnell's gold medal in Barcelona.

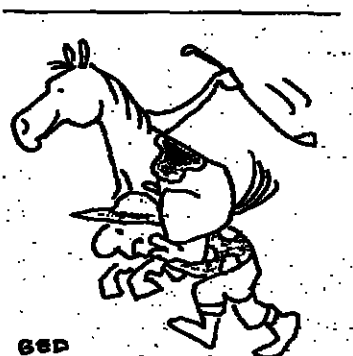
□ That Canadian guy who won the 100-yard dash and then draped himself in the Canadian flag and went round the track — he was the inspiration.

Chuck Daly, the coach, explaining why the dream team draped themselves in the American flag at the basketball final. That Canadian guy was Linford Christie.

□ I know how they do it, but I won't comment on whether it's fair or unfair. Mickey Stewart on the ability of Wasim Akram and Waqar Younis to swing the old ball.

□ I've been playing for Lancashire for five years now, taking 60 wickets a season, and nobody said anything.

Wasim Akram on suggestions that he and Waqar doctored the ball during the Test matches.



□ The Jockey Club are bowing to outside pressures from animal welfare groups. They should know better. Peter Sendamore, reacting to the decision to ban jockeys for four days for excessive use of the whip.

□ In my three years as a director, the club won six trophies. I had a five-year plan; we achieved all but the title in 18 months. Michael Knighton, Carlisle chairman, looking back on his period at Manchester United.

□ I could find a better chairman than Swales. I think he's past it. He's over the bloody hill. Hey, I didn't think he was good enough to get the job in the first place. Brian Clough, after Peter Swales had said that it was too late for Clough to become England manager.

□ Beating them isn't special anymore. Brian Gayle, Sheffield United captain, on his side's 1-0 win over Liverpool.

□ The lineup is a place for the thinking man rather than just the tall man. Neil Edwards, Scotland lock.

□ The obvious thing that worried me is that if we took David as well as Graham Gooch and Mike Gatting, we could end up losing three of our major batsmen at the same time through age.

Keith Fletcher, the new England manager, explaining Gower's omission from the tour party for India.

□ In my opinion, he's as fit as a butcher's dog. Jim Smith, Portsmouth manager, after John Bercford failed a Liverpool medical.

□ We felt silly at the end with only seven players on the pitch. Steve Davies, one of four Hereford players sent off against Northampton.

□ I was faced with a stark choice. I had to decide whether to avoid upsetting referees or to see whether I was free over Christmas to visit Gary Blissett in jail. Graham Kelly, after telling the court that challenges like Blissett's on John Uzzell could be seen 200 times in a week.

□ Clubs like ours spend an enormous amount of time, effort and money trying to attract the general public to football, and he's given them the impression that it's the equivalent of a bar-room brawl.

Mike Bateson, Torquay chairman, on Kelly's evidence.



□ Football has allowed TV and the police to take over. Jim Smith, Portsmouth manager, on police requirements which meant that the FA Cup semi-final was settled on penalties.

□ We've cheated and we've been caught. It's horrid. We have to stop it. Derek Newton, Surrey chairman, after the county were found guilty of ball-tampering.

□ We know what Bowe will be eating this Thanksgiving. He won't be eating turkey; he'll be eating chicken. Leann Lewis, as Bowe ducked a world title fight.

□ I'm off back to my pigsty. You meet a better class of person there. Ken Bates, Chelsea chairman, after a Premier League meeting broke up over sponsorship.

□ The goodies have to travel in one coach, the baddies in another. Otherwise, there'd be too much needing going on. Harvey Goldsmith, promoter, on the World Wrestling Federation 'European Rampage Again' tour.

□ Potential is a word that means you aren't worth a damn yet. Jeff Van Note, former US gridiron player.

□ If that's what football is about, then I'll have to look for another job. Graeme Souness, after a bruising 0-0 draw with Crystal Palace.

□ Four very strange decisions by the referee totally changed the whole course of the game. Souness, after Liverpool's 5-1 defeat at Coventry.

□ Selling players and having them come back and score against you is what the game is all about. Alex Ferguson, contemplating the return of Mark Robins to Old Trafford.



## RUGBY LEAGUE

## Davies's future with Widnes remains shrouded in doubt

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

JONATHAN Davies insisted yesterday that he will be remaining with Widnes, for the time being at least. The player's struggle to meet the club's financial demands had fuelled speculation about a possible move, with Leeds the suggested destination for Davies.

Doug Loughton, the Leeds coach, brought Davies to Widnes from Welsh rugby union amid unprecedented publicity four years ago, and is believed to want to sign Davies again.

Davies, 29, who has been struggling with injury most of the season, insisted recently that he would prefer not to leave Widnes, but might have to before the remaining two years on his contract expire because of the financial state of the club, which is planning to become a limited company. Jim Mills, the Widnes chairman, said last night that there had been no approach as yet from Headingley. "I have spoken to Jonathan, and I cannot go into any specific detail, except to say that he will be remaining here."

The worst injury crisis at Central Park for several years will deprive Widnes of half their regular side for the visit of Hull in the first of the Regal Trophy semi-finals on Saturday. Of the four players injured in the heavy defeat by St Helens on Sunday, Martin Offiah will be out for at least a

month with a sprung shoulder. Andy Platt for three weeks with a broken hand, and Denis Betts for ten days after suffering a damaged hip.

Dean Bell, the club captain, will only play if an X-ray proves conclusively that his hand is not fractured. Martin Dermott and Ian Lucas are still injured, although Joe Lydon should have recovered sufficiently for a return to a side that will draw heavily on Wigan's youth strength.

Unless a disciplinary hearing in Leeds today is lenient, Wigan may also be without Kelvin Skerrett, who will begin an immediate suspension for an illegal challenge on Jarrod McCracken, the St Helens winger, in the 41-6 defeat. Wigan's heaviest in the league for 20 years. Steve

McNamara, of Hull, will appear at the same meeting after being dismissed in the win against Sheffield Eagles on Saturday.

"I've never known the treatment room so crowded," Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, said yesterday.

"In the space of a fortnight, our luck has turned against us. We're just hoping it will go back as quickly."

"That will be necessary as they attempt to reduce their fixture backlog. Wigan have pledged to fulfil their home league game against Bradford Northern on February 7, the same weekend they are committed to sending a ten-man squad to Sydney to defend their World Sevens title."

The possibility of being without Offiah for the Australian excursion could leave Wigan's playing staff severely stretched.

Robinson said: "Obviously, these injuries have made things that much more difficult, but we are not going to pull out at this late stage. It's just unfortunate."

Before their opponents start rubbing hands in expectation, Wigan will this weekend call upon the fine young Alliance team trio of Barrie-Jon Mathers, Andrew Farrell and Mick Cassidy, who have already impressed in a handful of senior appearances, and who would automatically slot into any other first team.



Davies coveted

## Schofield looks at compensation

GARRY Schofield, the Great Britain captain, has admitted he has lost his battle to play in Australia next summer. The talented stand-off half had threatened legal action in an attempt to force Leeds to allow him to play for Manly during the close season.

He said: "I have accepted that I won't be going to Australia because Manly have withdrawn their offer in view of the problems. I'll be spending the summer trying to get my golf handicap down."

Schofield, 27, however, is clearly angry with Leeds' handling of the situation. He is now considering a compensation claim against the club.

Writing in a Yorkshire newspaper he said: "I don't care what your job or profession is, if your employer causes you to lose money you would seek legal advice. So I have seen a QC and I'll be getting his opinion over the year."

"If he thinks I have a case for compensation, then we will consider the next step. Even then it's by no means certain that I would take Leeds to court as that would not be good for our relations. I am more concerned about making my point."

"I believe there is nothing in my contract which prevents me from playing in Australia and outside of my obligations to Leeds."

He had a reassuring message for Leeds supporters. "I am not unhappy at Leeds," he said. "I am unhappy that I don't want to leave, but I don't want to leave, I won't be handing in a transfer request. I'm committed to Leeds and I want to win."

Schofield has also criticised reports of an offer that would have taken him to Wakefield Trinity. The deal involved exchanging Schofield for two Trinity players plus cash.

He said: "I was shocked to read in the papers that Leeds had supposedly offered me to Wakefield in exchange for Nigel Wright, Michael Jackson and £100,000 a month ago."

## YACHTING

## Donovan battles on as cable parts twice

By BARRY PICKTHALL

AS CREWS aboard Nuclear Electric and Commercial Union continue to battle over the final 750 miles for line honours in Hobart at the finish of the second stage of the British Steel Challenge, another crew is battling just to keep afloat.

Adrian Donovan, the skipper of the seventh-placed yacht, Heath Insured, reported that their steering cables broke twice yesterday, just as they were crossing the International Date Line. Adrian Rayson told race officials: "The boat sailed rather across. A cable parted and the wheel just went round and round uselessly. If that was not enough, it was blowing old boots and we had the huge asymmetric spinnaker set."

The repair took two hours while Rayson used a stumpy emergency tiller.

Two hours later, the wire parted again just as the winds were touching 40 knots and

the repairs took a further three hours. Despite this damage, the Heath team still managed a 24-hour run of 198 miles, losing just 34 miles to Pride of Teesside, the top pace-setter yesterday.

Ian MacGillivray and his crew were pushing hard for good reason: 24 hours earlier, Mike Golding and his crew on Group 4 Securitas had been equidistant from Hobart, and Vivien Cherry's Coopers & Lybrand was a further 24 miles behind.

MacGillivray's burst of speed overnight put his crew seven miles ahead of Group 4, and Coopers also slipped back ten miles.

LEADING POSITIONS at 1500 GMT yesterday, with races to Hobart: 1, Nuclear Electric (Chatterbox), 802 miles; 2, Commercial Union (R. MacGillivray), 877; 3, Hobart Lagoon (P. MacGillivray), 877; 4, Pride of Teesside (D. MacGillivray), 877; 5, Securitas (A. Golding), 877; 6, Coopers & Lybrand (V. Cherry), 877; 7, Heath Insured (A. Donovan), 1,282; 8, Wiggins (P. Golding), 1,282; 9, Prince of Wales (P. MacGillivray), 1,282; 10, British Steel (P. MacGillivray), 1,282; 11, Heath Insured (A. Donovan), 1,282; 12, Wiggins (P. Golding), 1,282; 13, Prince of Wales (P. MacGillivray), 1,282; 14, British Steel (P. MacGillivray), 1,282; 15, Heath Insured (A. Donovan), 1,282; 16, Wiggins (P. Golding), 1,282; 17, Prince of Wales (P. MacGillivray), 1,282; 18, British Steel (P. MacGillivray), 1,282; 19, Heath Insured (A. Donovan), 1,282; 20, Wiggins (P. Golding), 1,282; 21, Prince of Wales (P. MacGillivray), 1,282; 22, British Steel (P. MacGillivray), 1,282; 23, Heath Insured (A. 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# Holiday crowds offer hope for Premier League

## Atkinson is still cautious

## Prebble inspires South East to impressive start

over North East with Mark Pearn scoring three goals and Chris Curris adding another. By the end of the day, however East were back in the hunt with a resounding 5-1 win over North East. South West also finished the day with full points from two matches.

**RESULTS: UNDER-18:** Midlands 2, North West 1; East 0, South East 3; North East 0, West 4; West 4, South East 1; Midlands 0, South East 2; West 1, North West 1; Midlands 0, South West 1; West 0 **UNDER-16:** Midlands 1, North West 2; East 0, South East 1; North East 0, West 0; South West 1, North East 2; Midlands 0, West 1, South West 0.

## Changes will test Boardman

## Honda thinks about move into Indy Car

The tests will be conducted in a four-day session from January 5 to 8 at Phoenix international raceway. (Agnescio)

## Halpin out of Ireland rugby trial

48p per min other times 40p



## BBC1

- 7.00 News, regional news and weather (5801672)  
 7.10 Children's BBC beginning with Hello, Spencer. Puppet adventures (t) (2885547) 7.35 Babar. Adventures of a young elephant (t) (8180479)  
 8.00 News, regional news and weather (7738030) 8.10 Cuckoo! Comedy series (2870011) 8.35 Swamp Thing. Animation (1630011)  
 9.00 News, regional news and weather (5830082) 9.05 Come Midnight Monday. Episode six (t) (4162488) 9.25 Why Don't You...? Playdays. For the very young (t) (2330392) 10.05  
 10.30 Film: The Slipper and the Rose (1978) starring Richard Chamberlain and Gemma Craven. A musical version of the Cinderella story. With Annette Crosbie, Edith Evans, Christopher Gable, Margaret Lockwood, Kenneth More and Michael Hordern. Directed by Bryan Forbes. (CeeFax) (40344363) 12.45 Cartoon Double Bill (11668937) 12.55 Regional News and weather (5815558)  
 1.00 One O'Clock News with Andrew Harvey. (CeeFax) Weather (40785082)  
 1.10 Neighbours. (CeeFax) (t) (73578009) 1.30 Eldorado (t). (CeeFax) (t) (45270)  
 2.00 Film: The Pilot (1983) starring Bette Davis. The pilot for the television series, based on the novel by Arthur Hailey, set in a plush San Francisco hotel where drama and romance are played out under the watchful eye of the owner (Davis). Directed by Jerry London (161943)  
 3.40 Cartoon Triple Bill (3388837) 3.50 Pingu. Animation (t) (6387721) 4.00 Henry's Cat (7657214) 4.10 The Chronicles of Narnia. Concluding part of the drama based on the novels by C.S. Lewis (t). (CeeFax) (t) (8141769)  
 5.05 Newsround Review of the Year (5258437) 5.35 Neighbours (t). (CeeFax) (885450)  
 6.00 News with Andrew Harvey. (CeeFax) Weather (846689)  
 6.15 Regional News Magazines (338504)  
 6.30 Eldorado. (CeeFax) (t) (905)  
 7.00 Film: Bronco Billy (1980) starring Clint Eastwood and Sondra Locke. Comedy about a show business man who finds himself in an employable but loses and other escapades from reason including an incorrigible hearse thought to have been murdered by her new husband. Directed by Clint Eastwood (8276160)  
 8.30 Points of View. Anne Robinson reviews the year's gripes (888011)  
 9.00 Nine O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (CeeFax) Regional news and weather (5806)



Lacking festive spirit: prisoner Ronnie Barker (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Pomorie. The 1976 Christmas special of the behind bars comedy starring Ronnie Barker as the fly recidivist Fletcher. In this his hopes of a high spirited festive season are dashed when prison officers Mackay and Barrowclough uncover his supply of home-made hams and a spell of solitary seems inevitable. (CeeFax) (404788)  
 10.15 Review '92 - That Was the Year that Was presented by the BBC's foreign affairs editor John Simpson. (CeeFax) (3444586)  
 11.30 Film: They Call Me Mister Tibbs! (1970) starring Sidney Poitier and Martin Landau. A thriller, a sequel to In the Heat of the Night, in which Lt Virgil Tibbs investigates the murder of a young San Francisco prostitute. He receives an anonymous telephone call pointing the finger at a cowering local minister, a personal friend of the lieutenant. Directed by Gordon Douglas. (CeeFax) (550188)  
 1.15am Weather (3021851)

## BBC2

- 7.00 Film: Hollywood Hotel (1937, b/w). A lively Busby Berkeley musical starring Dick Powell, Rosemary Lane and Benny Goodman and his orchestra. A saxophonist wins a talent contest and heads for Hollywood where he becomes embroiled in a comedy of errors (1223058)  
 8.45 Film: Follow the Fleet (1936, b/w) starring Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. An Irving Berlin musical about a song and dancer who joins the navy after he is ditched by his girlfriend only for the romance to be re-kindled when they meet again when he is on shore leave in San Francisco. Directed by Mark Sandrich (87004872) 10.30 Green Acres. Animation (t) (2572473)  
 10.45 Sunday in the Park with George. Stephen Sondheim's Pulitzer Prize-winning Broadway musical loosely based on the life of the French Impressionist painter George Seurat. Starring Mandy Patinkin, Bernadette Peters and Charles Kimbrough. (CeeFax) (t) (3773837)  
 1.10 Nikolaevna Plays Shostakovich. Tatiana Nikolaeva completes Shostakovich's 24 preludes and fugues (s) (83720180)  
 1.40 Jean-Claude des Alpes. Comic animation from Switzerland (21943634)  
 1.50 Gerald Evans Masterclasses. In the third of four masterclasses Sir Gerald Evans sings with young singers on the portrayal of characters in (t) (1625470)  
 2.50 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures. The third lecture given by Professor Charles Stirling (t) (5002818)  
 3.50 Film: A Star Is Born (1955).  
 ● CHOICE: The story of a fading alcoholic actor and the rising singer who marries and seduces him have been filmed three times but most cogently in this musical version with James Mason and Judy Garland. For Garland it was a return to the cinema after four years away and she gives one of her most effective performances, a mixture of the strong and the vulnerable delivered with screen-grabbing intensity. The director, George Cukor, makes striking use of colour and has an acute feel for the showbusiness milieu. Cukor was determined that the musical numbers should flow naturally from the narrative. The producers trusted him by tacking on a Garland routine, "Born in a Trunk". They also cut Cukor's footage by 30 minutes. This print puts some of it back. (CeeFax) (47428721)  
 6.20 Film: White Collar. A Hollywood comedy starring John Sessions. (CeeFax) (88039)  
 6.30 Toccata. Puccini's three-act opera starring Plácido Domingo, Catherine Malfitano and Ruggero Raimondi with the RAI Symphony Orchestra and Chorus conducted by Zubin Mehta (t) (s) (85129905)  
 8.25 Talking Rembrandt. A collection of personal comments on some of Rembrandt's best-known paintings and drawings from, among others, a Dutch, a French and an American artist (156498)  
 9.00 The Vampirey - a Soap Opera. Episode two of the all-action adaptation of a 19th-century romantic novel (t) (259653)  
 9.25 New Season on 2. Programme preview (310488)



Gangster's moll: Michelle Pfeiffer, Dean Cain (9.30pm)

- 9.30 Film: Married to the Mob (1989).  
 ● CHOICE: The Michelle Pfeiffer season continues with Jonathan Demme's witty dance around the gangster genre which provided her first starring role. Not the least of Pfeiffer's qualities is her versatility on a screen persona built around her cool and fragile beauty. The process goes much further than, in this case, working her way through a gangster world and swooping her hair back for brown. She plays the gutsy wife of a philandering gangster (Alec Baldwin). When he is killed by the Mob she goes into hiding to escape the godfather (Dean Cain) and falls for an FBI agent (Matthew Modine). It is an appealing comedy-thriller, leavened with Demme's extravagant humour, though with a hard, dark edge. Pfeiffer's moll, which both parodies the type and gives it a fresh dimension, is a constant delight. (CeeFax) (s) (500553)  
 11.10 Unexplained. Eric Clapton and his band in concert (t) (847905)  
 12.00 Film: The Incredible Shrinking Man (1957, b/w) starring Grant Williams. A classic science fiction drama about a man who finds his body shrinking six months after being involved in a strange mist. Directed by Jack Arnold (2165257) 1.20am Weather (4225685)

## ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am (5097943)  
 9.25 The New Adventures of He-Man. Animation (6299496) 9.50  
 9.55 Film: Cromwell (1970) starring Alec Guinness and Richard Harris. Historical drama about the events surrounding the English civil war and the two main characters concerned - Oliver Cromwell and King Charles I. Directed by Ken Hughes (88710740)  
 12.30 Lunchtime News. (CeeFax) Weather (1244818) 12.50 Thames News (11950818)  
 1.00 Home and Away. Australian family drama. (CeeFax) (99996)  
 1.30 Film: Dr Syn Alias the Scoundrog. (1963) starring Patrick McGoohan, George Cole and Michael Hordern. A Walt Disney adventure set on the south coast in 1736 when smuggling was rife after a heavy tax was imposed on goods from the Continent. The government sends a sadistic general to stop the illegal activities and in particular to capture a man known as the Scoundrog. Directed by James Nelson. (CeeFax) (81463585)  
 3.15 ITN News headlines (7142127) 3.20 Thames News headlines (7132740) 3.25 Take the High Road. Drama serial set in the Highlands (3092059) 3.55 Cartoon Time (5330585)  
 4.15 Highway to Heaven. Jonathan, the earthbound apprentice angel, takes a family back in time in order to stop a feud. Starring Michael Landon (11610127)  
 5.40 Early Evening News. (CeeFax) Weather (863671) 5.55 Thames News (362450)  
 6.00 Home and Away (t). (CeeFax) (721)  
 6.30 Just for Laughs. A compilation of clips from British comedy films (t) (301)  
 7.00 This Is Your Life. Michael Aspel springs a seasonal surprise on another unsuspecting worthy (s) (7479)  
 7.30 Coronation Street. (CeeFax) (585)



Guest celebrity: the supermodel Cindy Crawford (8.00pm)

- 8.00 Des O'Connor Tonight. The entertainer's guests are Freddie Starr, Andrew Lloyd Webber, Neil Sedaka, Cindy Crawford, Al Jarreau and Billy Pearce (s) (5721)  
 9.00 Film: Tequila Sunrise (1988) starring Mel Gibson, Kurt Russell and Michelle Pfeiffer. Thriller about a Los Angeles former big-time cocaine dealer now trying to make a legitimate living who decides to do one more drug run in order to pay off his former wife and his debts despite a warning from a high school friend who is now in charge of the drug squad. Directed by Robert Towne (continues after the news) (5810455)  
 10.15 News. (CeeFax) Weather (465672) 10.30 Thames News (278301)  
 10.35 Film: Tequila Sunrise continued (164924)  
 11.30 Film: The Godfather II (1974). The conclusion of the Mafia drama which began last night. Michael Corleone continues to deal ruthlessly with his enemies while dealing with his own family problems. Starring Al Pacino, Robert Duvall, Diane Keaton and Robert De Niro. Directed by Francis Ford Coppola (787858)  
 1.15am Film: The Life and Times of Judge Roy Bean (1972) starring Paul Newman, Victoria Principal and Ava Gardner. Comedy western about a self-appointed judge who dispenses justice in an erratic fashion. When the townsmen take of his behaviour and send him packing he plans his revenge. Directed by John Huston (55346306)  
 3.30 Film: Final Jeopardy! (1985) starring Richard Thomas and Mary McCormack. Contest about an innocent couple who are stalked by a city. Directed by Michael Pressman (415886)  
 5.10 America's Top Ten presented by Richard Bland (s) (8045680)  
 5.40 Caribbees (473257)  
 5.55 ITN News (5320493). Ends at 6.00

## CHANNEL 4

- 6.00 Caribbees (30092) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (88050)  
 9.00 You Bet Your Life. American game show (s) (6278905)  
 9.25 Laurel and Hardy (5841837) 9.30 Seaside Street (45689)  
 10.30 Pro Celebrity Golf introduced by Tony Jackson. Hale Irwin and Sam Torrance are joined by Ronnie Corbett and Pat Jennings (5818)  
 11.30 Kate and Allie. American comedy series (2763)  
 12.00 Ghazal. Part two of the Asian songwriting competition (s) (363030)  
 12.30 Famous People. Famous Places. Quiz game show (s) (82943)  
 1.00 Film: The Last Winter (1990) starring David Ferry. Canadian story of a young man's reluctant acceptance of the end of his childhood. Directed by Aaron Kim Johnson (20871189)  
 2.55 Bolero. A classical music video inspired by Greek mythology (8261634)  
 3.15 Celebrity Fifteen to One. With Roy McGrath, Lionel Blair, Anna Rasmussen and Mifsy Bland and Austin Mitchell (s) (950553)  
 4.00 One Family: A House for Pete. The story of a streetwise young Brazilian living in Copacabana (5092)  
 5.00 Film: Rainbow (1978) starring Andrea McArdle. A film biography of the early years of Judy Garland from the time she began her vaudeville singing act with her two sisters to when she found fame in The Wizard of Oz. Directed by Jack Cooper (888834)  
 6.45 Huge Adventures of Trevor a Cat. Cartoon (404160)  
 7.00 Channel 4 News. (Teletext) Weather (433031) 7.50 Comment. Sheila Cassidy on post-traumatic stress disorder (616863)  
 8.00 Brookside. (Teletext) (4769)  
 8.30 Travelogue. Robert Ellis reports from the Himalayan kingdom of Bhutan. (Teletext) (5275)  
 9.00 An Angel at My Table. Final part of the trilogy about the life and work of the New Zealand writer Janet Frame. (Teletext) (3127)  
 10.00 The Golden Girls. Comedy series about four women of a certain age sharing a Miami home. (Teletext) (s) (44059)



On duty: night watchmen Threlkell, Ellis, Lindsay (10.30pm)

- 10.30 Nightingales.  
 ● CHOICE: Paul Maitin's curious comedy about the night security guards returns with a seasonal offering. The lads invite the Pope and Harold Pinter to their Christmas eve party. They are visited instead by a girl called Mary who is pregnant. This is the cue for an extended allegory yoke which may be obvious but at least holds the show together. Otherwise it is as meandering and inconsequential as The Last of the Summer Wine, another study of three misfits with nowhere to go, though the gloomy gloom cannot completely scintillate with the Yorkshire Dales. Despite the valiant efforts of its considerable cast, James Ellis, David Threlkell and Robert Lindsay, Nightingales continues to be a touchpaper waiting for someone to apply the vital spark (t) (30479)  
 11.00 The Prisoner. A TV drama series from the 1960s starring Patrick McGeehan (574547) 11.55 Roger Milla. Cartoon (s) (210672)  
 12.10am Chelmsford 123. Comedy series set in Roman Britain (t) (s) (210561)  
 12.35 Film: Invasion of Astromonster (1985). Another in the Japanese-made science fiction thriller series featuring Godzilla. Directed by Inoshiro Honda (806615). Ends at 2.15

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## Cricket team arrives in India for tough tour

Smooth flight for  
England ends  
in bumpy landingFROM PETER BALL  
IN DELHI

THE England party arrived here in the early hours of yesterday morning to find cricketing matters pushed into the shade by reports of the break up of Graham Gooch's marriage, and news of a local airline pilots' strike.

By last night, however, cricket had re-established itself as the focus of attention. The players had gone gently through their paces to shake out any muscle stiffness after their long flight and the Indian board had given the England tour management the final draft of the playing conditions.

There had been suggestions that the use of video evidence and a third umpire might be considered, following its success in India's tour of South Africa. Gooch welcomed the idea, but the hosts have not proposed it.

A cloud, albeit on the horizon, came in the form of the pilots' strike. Now in its nineteenth day, it has reduced internal flights to a minimum. If it continues, and informal talks yesterday did not close the gap between the sides, it leaves the transport to some of the early fixtures, metaphorically at least, up in the air.

"It is too early to make any decisions about changing travel arrangements," Bob Bennett, the tour manager, said

yesterday. "Our first journey is to Lucknow, and if it becomes necessary we will consider it in due course." With the first nine days of the tour based in Delhi, and the chairman of the Indian Cricket Board, Mahdavarao Scindia, also the minister for aviation, that is unlikely to present an intractable problem. At the moment, some flights are being manned by Russian pilots and two more TU-154s are expected to join the fleet on lease from Uzbekistan next week.

If transport is not an immediate problem, Gooch's unhappy domestic position demands sympathy. A sense of shock is unavoidable, for his 16-year marriage has been widely regarded as one of the most stable in a traditionally difficult environment.

Refreshed after his night's sleep, Gooch looked relaxed as he sat with John Embury beside the hotel pool before a late afternoon training session. "It is a private, personal matter," Gooch said. "I do not wish to make any comment."

With typical single-mindedness, however, he is clearly determined that the situation will not interfere with his cricket, and there is little doubt that he will not lack for support. The management team quickly rallied to his side. "Throughout his period as England captain, Graham Gooch has always enjoyed the full support of the England players and everyone here is determined to help him in any way possible," Bennett said.

From the team's point of view, the timing is unfortunate. Gooch's decision to take part in this tour had been unexpected. In the past, he has toured reluctantly, twice missing trips for family reasons. He is, however, intending to continue with his original plans to miss the Sri Lankan leg of the tour, when the vice-captain, Alec Stewart, will take over the captaincy.

"I was very saddened when Graham told me, but the problem is very much a private one and I hope he will now be left alone to get on with leading the team on this tour," Keith Fletcher, the team manager, said.

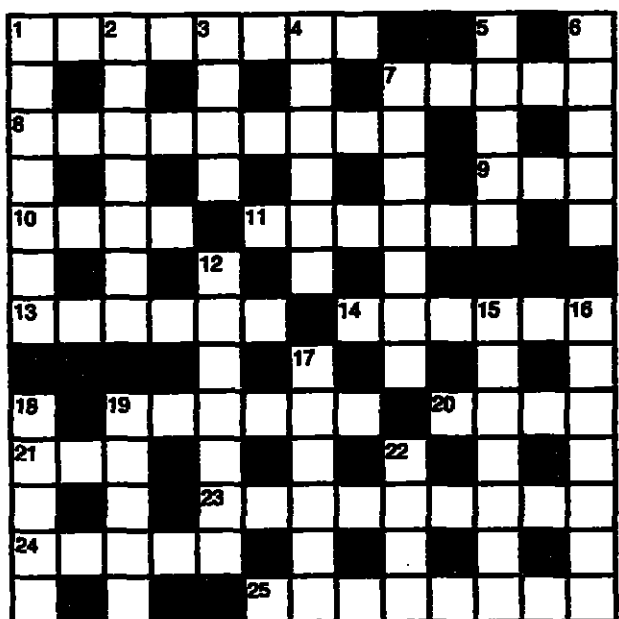
The Indian board, meanwhile, has plenty of its own team problems to sort out. Reports circulating after a board meeting on Monday suggest that Azharuddin will take the blame for the poor performances in South Africa, and Kapil Dev is regarded as his most likely replacement as captain.

The all-rounder's valiant hundred in Port Elizabeth yesterday will not damage his chances of making that coming true. Who he will have alongside him is another matter, and there were hints yesterday that the team may be selected before the present party gets back from South Africa.

One team which was announced was the President's XI for the match in Lucknow. That will give the England batsmen an early test against spin. Maninder Singh, captaining the side which also includes the leg-spinner, Hirwani, among half a dozen fringe candidates for the Test team.

BOARD PRESIDENT'S XI (from): Maninder Singh (captain), Sundaram Shrivastava, V. Kambli, Rahul Dravid, A. Sharma, S. Ganguly, N. Mongia, S. Anand, A. W. Zaidi, P. Vasudevan, R. Chaudhary, N. Hiran, S. Sureshwar.

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2983



- ACROSS**
- Everlasting (8)
  - Smithy (5)
  - Jazz wind (9)
  - Solar centre (3)
  - Moist (4)
  - Painting (6)
  - Cure (6)
  - Homicide (6)
  - Good behaviour release (6)
  - Hiccup (4)
  - Metals mineral (3)
  - Make steady (9)
  - Swimming pool (5)
  - Aversions (8)
- DOWN**
- Special knowledge holder (7)
  - Most (7)
  - Oil seed plant (4)
  - Heavy jacket (6)
  - VIP's (5)
  - Method (5)
  - Zeal (7)
  - Lecture (7)
  - Desperate withdrawal (7)
  - Relapse (7)
  - Mineral salt (6)
  - Silly fool (5)
  - Trivial (5)
  - Clock face (4)

## SOLUTION TO NO 2982

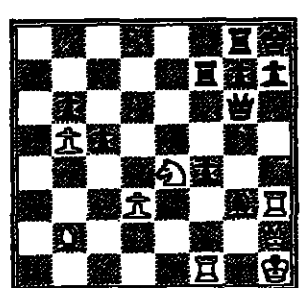
**ACROSS:** 1 Comic 4 Ditched 8 Signal box 9 Woe 10 Sac 11 Lutheness 12 Sales 13 Use up 14 Represent 15 Post 16 Tun 17 Life blood 18 Halcyn 19 Entry 20 Costs 21 Magical 22 Charles Wesley 4 Debate 5 Tax deductible 6 Haves 7 Dress up 12 Stretch 14 Exploit 15 Deafen 17 Panel 19 Today

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## WINNING MOVE

This position is taken from the game Spraggett - Speelman, Foreign & Colonial Hastings Premier 1989/90. Here, white played 1 Nc3? missing the chance for a brilliant finish. Can you see how an alternative move of the white knight would have administered the coup de grace? British grandmasters Nunn and Speelman will be among the eight players in the top section at this year's Hastings tournament. Further details from the British Chess Federation on 0424 442500 (Raymond Keene).

## Solution on page 27



## WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

**BRUMBY**

- A person from Birmingham
- A car-boot sale
- A wild horse

**CYMBIDIUM**

- A small cymbal
- A tropical orchid
- A little valley

**PEPPERONI**

- Hot sausages
- A type of pasta
- The Vatican guards

**RIZA**

- Spanish risotto
- A metal plaque
- An armoured cod-piece

Answers on page 27



Captain fantastic: Kapil Dev hooks during his face-saving innings yesterday

Kapil's defiant  
century fails  
to avert defeat

FROM RICHARD STREETON IN PORT ELIZABETH

A MARVELLOUS hundred from Kapil Dev salvaged a modicum of pride for India yesterday before South Africa won the third Test match here by nine wickets. After Kapil's memorable display unexpectedly prolonged the match, South Africa were left to make 153 for victory.

Wessels and Hudson shared a first-wicket stand of 98 to remove any possibility of a shock. South Africa won with seven minutes left and a day to spare to take a 1-0 lead in the four-match series. It was their first Test match win since they completed a 4-0 success against Australia in March 1970 and undoubtedly will trigger nationwide rejoicing.

Wessels survived a low return chance to Kumble when six but this was virtually the only serious alarm bell to ring as South Africa moved towards their target with calm and certain assurance. Wessels finished with 12 fours in his 95 not out.

Kapil previously led an unforgettable recovery from 27 for five to enable India's second innings to reach 215. In a superb exhibition of fast bowling, Donald took the last four wickets to finish with seven for 84 and a match analysis of 12 for 139. It was the fourth-best bowling performance for South Africa and earned him the man-of-the-match award.

Sadly Prabhakar was reported for dissent by the umpire, Will Driedicks, when he was given out caught behind against Donald. Prabhakar indicated that any "noise" heard came when his bat hit a pad and stood there clearly incredulous as the umpire's finger was raised and left muttering. Later, Mike Smith, the ICC match referee, upheld the umpire's com-

plaint. Prabhakar was fined ten per cent of his match fee, about £20.

Amid everything else that happened in a splendid match, Kapil's second innings defiance will always be recalled. Kapil has changed the course of more than one of his 119 Test matches with forceful strokeplay.

Those who saw it, for instance, will never forget the four consecutive sixes he hit against Hemmings at Lord's in 1990 to save the follow-on. As on that occasion, this innings against South Africa was in a losing cause. In terms of dramatic impact, though, it brought memories of Botham at Headingley in 1981.

India, resuming at 71 for six, added a further 144 yesterday of which Kapil claimed 96. Ignoring a bruised right hand, he became the first Indian batsman in this series to dictate terms to the South African fast bowlers. Classic drives on both sides of the wicket were a regular feature. He also ruthlessly pulled and swung lifting balls to the leg side. More than once, deep fielders hardly had time to move before the ball crashed into the fence.

Kapil was 56 when Kumble joined him to share a stand of 77 in 18 overs. A crowd of 4,000 gave Kapil a standing ovation when he reached his century by clipping a four to mid-wicket off Henry's first ball when the spinner bowled just before lunch.

Kumble batted with commendable resolution until he fended off a rearing ball and was caught off a glove. It gave Richardson his ninth catch in the match and set a record for a South African wicketkeeper. When Kapil finally fell to Donald, he had hit a six and 14 fours and faced 180 balls.

INDIA: First innings 212 (M Azharuddin 66; A A Donald 5 for 55).	
Second innings	
R J Shastri c Richardson b McAllister	5
W V Raman b Donald	0
S V Manjrekar lbw b Donald	6
S R Tendulkar c Richardson b Schultz	6
M Azharuddin c Wessels b Donald	7
P K Aravind c Richardson b Schultz	12
Kapil Dev c McAllister b Donald	129
M Prabhakar c Richardson b Donald	17
R S More b Donald	17
A R Kumble c Richardson b Donald	17
S L V Raju not out	2
Extras (b 4, w 1, nb 3)	8
Total	215
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-1, 2-10, 3-11, 4-20, 5-27, 6-31, 7-48, 8-120, 9-197.	
SOUTH AFRICA: First innings 275 (W J George 135, A C Hudson 55).	
Second innings	
K C Wessels not out	85
K C Hudson c Azharuddin b Tendulkar	59
W J George not out	16
Extras (b 8, nb 3)	11
Total (1 wkt)	155
P N Krieger, J N Rhodes, J O Richardson, B M McAllister, G Henry, C P Matthews, A A Donald and B N Schultz did not bat.	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-48, 2-57, 3-61, 4-61, 5-61, 6-61, 7-61, 8-61, 9-61.	
BOWLING: Donald 29-4-4-7; Schultz 16-5-	

## McAllister may go abroad

By IAN ROSS

PARIS Saint-Germain are poised to make a second attempt to lift Gary McAllister out of Leeds United's season of discontent.

The French club is expected to make contact with the defending Football League champions within the next few days to express formally a firm interest in the Scotland international midfielder player.

McAllister, who celebrated his 28th birthday on Christmas day, is out of contract at the end of the season. Although he has already held preliminary negotiations with Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, about a lucrative new deal, he is known to be keen on playing abroad.

Saint-Germain first enquired about McAllister's availability three weeks ago when one of their leading officials travelled to England to attend one of Leeds' fixtures.

Although Wilkinson is anxious to extend his association with a player who was instrumental in Leeds' winning the championship for the first time in 18 years last May, he may well be tempted to sell McAllister if it does eventually become clear that he is determined to leave Elland Road.

Although there is now no



McAllister: may move

maximum transfer fee under the Uefa regulations that govern the sale of players whose contracts have expired, Leeds could expect to collect no more than £1.5 million if McAllister was to join a continental club before the start of next season.

Fees for players who are deemed to be free agents are calculated according to the age of the individual involved and the size of his gross income, a figure that must include fixed wages and bonuses paid by both club and national associations.

For a player of McAllister's age, Uefa demands that the gross income figure — an estimated £200,000 in his case — be multiplied by six, which would give a final total of £1.2 million.

On top of that, Leeds could expect to receive an additional 20 per cent or £240,000 because McAllister has made two or more appearances for Scotland over the past two seasons.

Racing and  
football feel  
the freeze

THE frost and fog affecting much of the country took a heavy toll of yesterday's football and racing. Frozen pitches accounted for most of last night's football programme, including the Premier League match between Sheffield United and Oldham Athletic.

All three of yesterday's race meetings were called off, as are today's cards at Tamworth, Warwick and Carlisle. Fomwell depends on an inspection this morning.

Yesterday's card at Leopardstown, Ireland, featuring the reappearance of Royal Gait, the champion hurdler, has been put back 24 hours because of frost.

Cheltenham, due to stage racing tomorrow and on Friday, was frozen yesterday, but milder weather is forecast for later in the week.

## Referee's error leads to replay in France

FROM A CORRESPONDENT  
IN MARSEILLES

ONE of the football's fundamental principles — that the referee's decision is final — has been overturned in France. Yesterday, it was confirmed that a first division match between Bordeaux and Toulouse earlier this month will be replayed because of a crucial, decisive mistake by the referee.

When Bordeaux snatched the late winning goal in the clubs' fixture on December 12, the game erupted in a controversy that has continued, unabated, since. A blatant error by a young official, Gilles Veissiere, who had

failed to recall correctly Fifa's six-month-old law on back-passes to the goalkeeper, gave Bordeaux the chance to claim their winner and left Toulouse fuming.

Inevitably, they appealed, demanding the game be replayed. Much more surprisingly and, since it may set a precedent for the game far beyond the French game, worryingly, the game's governors agreed.

After a meeting with France's central commission of referees at the headquarters of the French FA in Paris yesterday, the replay was left to fix a date for it to be played, probably towards the end of

January. Bordeaux's counter-appeal is expected to be overturned today.

The problems began four minutes from the end of the match in Bordeaux when a Toulouse defender passed back to the goalkeeper, who illegally picked up the ball. Veissiere ordered a free kick to be taken less than two yards from the goal line, where the offence had been committed, despite Fifa's rule that a free kick conceded within the six-yard box should be taken on the edge of the box.

Some Toulouse players protested, so too did the club's directors, but Veissiere stuck to his guns and Bicente

Lizarazu turned the ball over the line to make it 1-0. Still the protests continued and the official needed a police escort from the field.

As the French press turned its full attention to the incident, Veissiere, lamented: "I made a mistake and I admit it. I just wish I didn't have to keep reading all this media fuss."

Aware that his club's appeal — a disingenuous claim that it is harder to score from two yards than six — is likely to fail today, the Bordeaux president, Alain Aillieou, said: "This decision will set a precedent and cause no end of problems for French football."

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